

SPRINGER NATURE

What are the rules?

1996 — Nature's 'Guide to Authors' sets out our expectations for sharing materials, methods and data

GUIDE TO AUTHORS

Guide to authors of contributions to Nature

Nature is a weestly international journal covering all the sciences. It is intended for an interdisciplinary readership, so all manuerspits should intended for an interdisciplinary readership, so all manuerspits should personal the science of the

•Reviews inform a broad readership about fields where there are

comprehensive literature survey.

*They can be controversial but in this event should briefly indicate

work.

•Language should be simple, novel concepts defined and jargon Reviews should not be more than 6,000 words and ideally should be shorter. There should be no more than 100 references and ideally half that number. There is no limit to the number of display items or explanatory boxes (used for clarification of technical points or for background material), but reviews do not generally take more than six

consultation with the author. consultation with the author.

Progress articles review particularly topical and fast-moving fields for a nonspecialist readership. They are similar to Reviews except for the

 They do not exceed four pages of Nature in length, including display items and references. (One printed page of text is about 1,300 words.)

*They focus on current papers of outstanding interest that are setting new standards in a field.

*Because of their topicality, Progress articles should be written and

submitted within a few weeks of Nature's editors expressing an interest in a synopsis.

• Authors may discuss their own work, but should make it clear in the

*Authors may discuss their own work, but should make it clear in the text if they are presenting a personal, rather than a consensax, view.

*Titles are brief (generally a single line) and relatively informat.

*Articles are reports of original scientific research.

*They report novel conclusions of broad general scientific interest.

*They reported a substantial advance in scientific understanding of an important problem.

They should not be longer than 3,000 words, have more than six dis-

play items (with captions of fewer than 300 words) or have more than They have a 'heading' of up to 80 words often rewritten by Nature's editors, which advertises the content of the paper in general terms. The heading should not contain numbers, abbreviations or measurements

The introduction and summary should be contained in the first two or three paragraphs of the main text.
 Letters to Nature are short reports focused on a novel, outstanding

The implication of the main result are of director to recognical sections.

The implication of the main result are of director to recognical the contract of t display items. Captions should not exceed 300 words.

•Articles and Letters contain a statement at the end of the text:

"Correspondence and requests for materials to xxxxx". Database accession numbers should be included after this statement.

unless central to the message of the paper

manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only.

• Manuscripts should be accompanied by a brief cover letter from the corresponding author, containing a full postal address, telephone and fax number, and e-mail address.

• Five copies of manuscripts and original figures are needed, together

with two copies of the covering letter. Five copies of relevant related manuscripts in press or submitted for publication elsewhere should be included, clearly marked as such.
 Unless otherwise instructed by the editor handling a manuscript,

when sending revised or resubmitted manuscripts, five copies are required, each accompanied by a copy of the authors' response to referecs' and editor' comments on the eastler version.

Thest about the best pertinent and simple, avoiding active verbs, numerical values, abbrevaites and simple, avoiding active verbs, numerical values, abbrevaites, the simple simple

should be mentioned in the text with a list of authors Reference lists contain only citations to published papers, and do not contain textual material, grant details or acknowledgements.
 Acknowledgements must be brief and appear after the reference list. Nature does not publish grant contribution numbers

Figures should not be larger than 22 by 28 cm unless unavoidable.

They should be marked with the author's name and, where known, the rapid, important advances.

They should be marked with the author's name and, where known, the manuscript reference number. One photocopy of the original figures hys focus on one ceptical aspect of a field rather than providing as the property of the company of the company

Nature publishing figures where colour is essential.

Figures containing protein/nucleotide sequence information should ideally use the three-letter code for amino acids. One column width

can accommodate 20 amino acids or 60 base pairs. Figure legends should contain fewer than 300 words. They should consist of a brief description of the figure (title, explanation of the parts, explanation of symbols) followed by a telegraphic account of the methods, if appropriate. Multipart figures are discouraged unless the parts are logically connected.

 Tables do not have a 'methods' section. Symbols and abbreviations in the table should be defined immediately below the table, followed by essential descriptive material, all in double-spaced text. Tables should each be presented on a separate sheet of paper.

*As a condition of publication, authors are required to make n and methods used freely available to academic researchers.

own use. Supporting datasets must be made available a publication either by deposition in the appropriate pube outabase or by distribution on the Internet, together with the relevant accession numbers or site address. In the case of X-ray crystallographic coordi nates only, public access may be delayed for up to one year after publi

*Manuscripts can be submitted to the Editor at Nature, Porter's South, Crinan St, London N1 9XW or at Nature, 968 National Press Building, Washington, DC 20045-1938. Proofs should be returned by express

Nature publishes informal material in each issue, as follows.

*Correspondence contributions are shot

ancedotal material or reactions of reac published in *Nature* (mainly News, Opi mentary articles). All are unsolicite nature@nature.com are preferred (as should be clearly indicated). Contribution

synopsis or informal letter.

News and Vlews editorials inform no scientific advances, either as reported i form of meeting reports. Most are comm

made to the News and Views Editor in paper or of the meeting concerned. Auth their own work or work from elsewhere guidelines are available on request.

*Scientific Correspondence is for inforr tific issues, including material published contributions of fewer than 500 words. able on request. All contributions are une
 Book Reviews are all commissioned

 Notice's editors will request final copy for Commentary, News and the control of the contro Views, Scientific Correspondence and Book Reviews on diskette or via

NATURE - VOI 380 - 11 APRII 1996

"As a condition of publication, authors are required to make materials and methods used freely available to academic researchers for their own use. Supporting datasets must be made available at the time of publication either by deposition in the appropriate public database or by distribution on the Internet, together with the relevant accession numbers or site address..."

— *Nature*, 11th April 1996.

SPRINGER NATURE

2002 — Nature requires MIAME-compliant open data for all microarray results published in its journals

nature

26 September 2002 Volume 419 Issue no 6905

Microarray standards at last

Not a moment too soon, the microarray community has issued guidelines that will make their data much more useful and accessible. Nature and the Nature research journals will respond accordingly.

ou read a paper with a fascinating conclusion about the expression of several genes. You decide to use some of the same experiments on your system of choice. But when you wade through hundreds of pages of supplementary information, you find that crucial details needed for replication are missing.

Welcome to the exciting but frustrating world of DNA microarray research. Microarrays are plastic or glass chips spotted with tiny amounts of thousands of probes, used to query the activity levels of that many genes in any tissue or organism at one time. Variables in every step of the experiment often make cross-paper comparison virtually impossible. Microarray papers also pose a considerable strain on the refereeing process; the vast amounts of data mean that critical reviews a monumental task.

Yet referees sometimes feel they are not given enough details, leading cautious reviewers to think that they must reanalyse the primary data set. In other cases, the primary data provided are in proprietary software and so are impossible to comment on. Many journals allowed authors to put the huge data files on their own websites for the review process, until it became clear that unscrupulous authors compromised the anonymity or feferees by tracking who had visited the website.

In a move to remedy these problems, the international Microarray Gene Expression Data (MGED) group has written an open letter to scientific journals proposing standards for publication. Other members of the microarray community welcomed these steps, designed to clarify the Minimal Information About a Microarray Experiment (MIAME) guidelines (Nature Genticis 29, 365–371; 2001).

For authors, the proposal provides a checklist of variables that should be included in every microarray publication, at http://www.mged.org/Workgroups/MIAME/miame_checklist.html. This checklist, with all variables completed, would be supplied as supplementary information at the time of submission. The MGED group suggests that journals require submission of microarray data to either of two databases emerging as the main public repositories: GEO (www.ncbi. nlm.nih.gov/geo/) or ArrayStypress (www.ebi.ac.uk/Arrayexpress).

Harried editors can rejoice that, at last, the community is taming the unruly beast that is microarray information. Therefore, all submissions to Nature and the Nature family of journals recipied or after 1 December containing new microarray experiment include the mailing of five compact disks to the editor. These should include necessary information compliant with the MIAN standard. The information must be supplied in a format that could be read by widely available software packages. Data integral to the paper's conclusions should be submitted to the ArrayExpress or GEO databases, with accession numbers where available, supplied at or before acceptance for mubilication

How much data Specifically, do othe microarray just to te could presumably b further evolution at the need to specify s standards are surely a



te the exact genes, which erhaps with technology, the MGED e field.

f... all submissions to Nature and the Nature family of journals received on or after 1st December [2002] containing new microarray experiments must include ... necessary information compliant with the MIAME standard. The information must be supplied in a format that could be read by widely available software packages. Data integral to the paper's conclusions should be submitted to the ArrayExpress or GEO databases, with accession numbers where available, supplied at or before acceptance for publication."

- Nature, 26th September 2002.

1913 — Nature and its sister titles mandate reproducibility checklists for life science papers

From May 2013, all life science papers published in *Nature* and all other Nature research journals must be accompanied by a reporting summary that contains details of experimental design, reagents, and statistical analysis. From June 2017, we started publishing these beside each paper.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Towards greater reproducibility

Since 2013, Nature and the Nature research journals have asked authors of papers in the life sciences to complete a checklist when they submit a paper. This extra step — prompting authors to disclose important elements of experimental design and analysis — was part of a broader effort to improve the quality of reporting in our life-sciences articles.

This week we go further. Alongside every life-sciences manuscript, we will publish a new reporting-summary document, to which authors will now be expected to add details of experimental design, reagents and analysis. This is another step in encouraging transparency, in ensuring that papers contain sufficient methodological detail, and in improving statistics reviewing and reporting.

We expect that the new reporting summary will assist reviewers

greater experimental detail for papers based on chromatin immunoprecipitation sequencing, flow cytometry and magnetic resonance imaging. Although our physical-sciences papers will not use a standard reporting summary, we are launching accessory summaries on lasers and solar cells to elevate reporting standards in these areas. In future, we will expand this set to cover other techniques. Like the core reporting summary, these accessory summaries will be published with the relevant paper.

We are happy for other journals and institutions to use the same approach, and so we have made all the reporting-summary templates available for use or adaptation under a CC-BY licence.

As with the initial checklist, these documents aim to improve reporting, rather than to enforce a defined set of standards. They should make apparent the details of how a study was designed, performed and analysed, to allow reviewers and readers to interpret the results and understand any limitations. There are, of course, separate experimental standards that must be met to comply with our editorial policies, and these are captured in our new editorial-policy checklist (see go.nature.com/2rdnfbh).

As a complement to these new documents, we will now mandate greater transparency in data presentation. We will ask authors,



Nature **546**, 8 (2017).



The Reproducibility checklist had an immediate effect

An independent study of the reproducibility of in vivo cell biology papers published in *Nature* journals before and after implementation of the reproducibility checklist found that:

- The proportion of papers meeting all relevant 'Landis 4 criteria' (reporting randomisation, blinding, sample size calculation, and exclusion criteria) increased from 0% to 16%.
- The proportion that explicitly reported:
 - Randomisation increased from **2% to 11%**;
 - Blinding increased from 4% to 23%;
 - Sample size calculations increased from 2% to 15%;
 - Exclusion criteria increased from **14% to 31%**.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/187245

Funder Rules — Horizon Europe

Mandates data management plans and open sharing of data for grants awarded from 2021 onwards



"Under Horizon Europe (Work programmes 2021 and onwards), grantees of all ERC projects that generate research data have to submit a DMP6 (at the latest six months after the start of the project), deposit such data in a 'trusted' repository and provide access to them, under the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'."

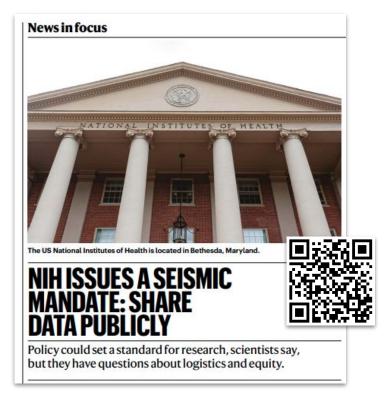
Funder Rules — NIH Open Science Policy

Mandates data management plans and open sharing of data, eventually

In January 2023, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) will begin requiring the researchers and institutions it funds to include a data-management plan in all grant applications.

The policy also requires that

"Shared scientific data should be made accessible as soon as possible, and no later than the time of an associated publication, or the end of the award/support period, whichever comes first."



Funder Rules — The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

In August, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy announced that as of 1st January 2026, all research that the US government funds must be made freely available to all upon publications, without embargo.

Most news outlets described this as a momentous day for open access publishing. And is was. But what fewer people mentioned, in the immediate aftermath at least, was the sweeping mandate on open research data sharing!



What about tools?

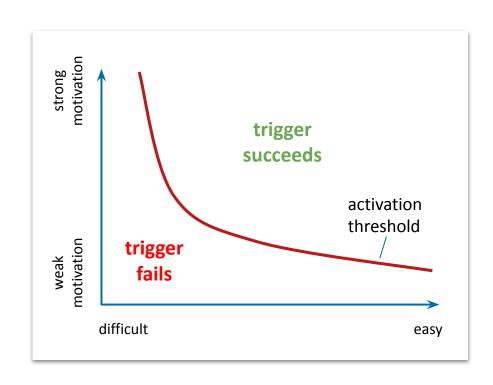
Why tools are better than rules

The Fogg behaviour model — making things easy is usually easier for everyone!

The Fogg behaviour model suggests that people will only exhibit a given behaviour in response to a trigger if their **motivation** AND **ease** in doing so exceeds a certain threshold.

You can **increase the chances** of triggering a behaviour by **increasing their motivation** — such as with a reward for compliance or a penalty for non-compliance — or **making it easier for them to comply**.

It is cheaper and more effective to make it easier for researchers to comply than to police or reward their compliance.



Also...

Researchers already spend way too much time doing things that aren't research!

FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP (FDP)



2018 Faculty Workload Survey

RESEARCH REPORT: Primary Findings

Prepared by

Sandra L. Schneider (Principal Investigator), etc.

University of South Florida

"... previous surveys in both 2005 and 2012 revealed that faculty researchers estimated that approximately 42.3% of their research time was devoted to fulfilling administrative and other requirements associated with obtaining and managing federally-funded projects. In 2018, this value increased by 2% ... the trend seems to be that time taken from research by requirements is increasing, not decreasing. Pls reported that almost half of their available research time for federal projects had to be allocated to fulfilling requirements instead of focusing on the content of their research projects."

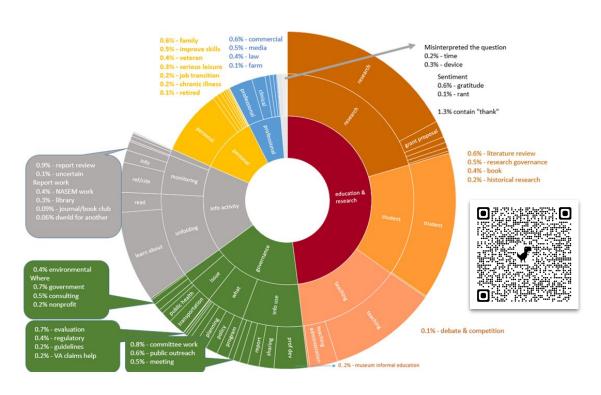
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Making it easier to preprint

Publication

Who reads open access research?

- Researchers analysed data from the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) about how Open Access consensus study reports are used by the public
- Half of all reports used for non-academic purposes including public health and local/regional planners
- Widely used by science and maths teachers
- 'Serious leisure' edible plants, astronomy



HOW CAN WE MAKE PREPRINTING EASY?

Early sharing is becoming more common but still a relatively small proportion



"Springer Nature receives more than one million submissions a year from authors all around the world, publishing well over 300,000 papers across a huge range of disciplines

[In Review] provides every Springer Nature author regardless of academic discipline with a route ... to sharing their research as a preprint."

Alison Mitchell, Chief Journals Officer

...

Easy sharing of a preprint integrated with journal submission systems:

- Author selects *In Review* option when they submit
- Preprint available and shareable via *Research Square* platform in html format: easy to read and navigate
- Authors establish priority and benefit from early comments and citations
- Others benefit from early access to a version of their paper

Making it easier to review and share code

Best practice when publishing open code

Code needs to be sufficiently documented (ie metadata) to enable others to **Proper** check and re-use it. This includes information on dependencies, operating documentation systems, technical requirements as well as licenses and terms of use Peer review and Peer reviewing the code ensures that it is evaluated by an expert and it is verification functional and re-usable at the time of publication Permanence Code should be stored in a repository using a permanent unique identifier, cited and recognition in the paper and recognized as a valuable output in its own right Like data, published code should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and F.A.I.R Re-usable

Integrated solutions support authors, reviewers and readers

Supporting code sharing

The container assembles data, code and the right environment and offers transparency and reproducibility of the results

Supporting authors

Authors are given the option to use the Code Ocean platform and technical support to set up their code and data in a container.

Supporting reviewers

Reviewers are provided private access to the code container and free-computing time. The container facilitates checking and running the code

Supporting readers

Readers access code, data and environment in one place, via a link to the capsule. The capsule is given a DOI to enable proper recognition, citation and re-use



SPRINGER NATURE

Positive engagement and response from the community

- Average 54% uptake from authors of offered service
- High engagement by reviewers (24 views per capsule; 1.3 runs per capsule)
- Positive feedback from the community

Code availability

All source codes and models of DeepFragLib are publicly available through a Code Ocean compute capsule (https://doi.org/10.24433/CO.3579011.v1)⁴⁹ and on GitHub (https://github.com/ElwynWang/DeepFragLib). We have also provided an online server for DeepFragLib at http://structpred.life.tsinghua.edu.cn/DeepFragLib.html.



For our paper in @NatMachIntell we put everything on @CodeOceanHQ including a simulated dataset. There are no excuses for avoiding reproducibilty.



4Dsurvival: Deep learning cardiac motion analysis for human survival...

© codeocean.com

2:15 PM - Jan 21, 2020





Just had an absolute joy of a reviewing experience for @NatComputSci – really interesting paper that I felt I could help strengthen even more, and solid code capsule on @CodeOceanHQ as part of the package too! May all reviews be so educational and fun! AND HAVE INLINE FIGURES

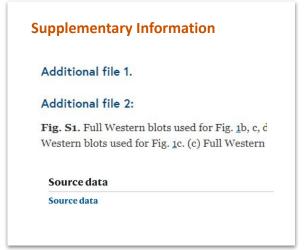
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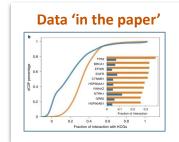
Making it easier to share research data

The problem

Even if authors technically comply, the data are rarely findable, accessible, interoperable or reusable



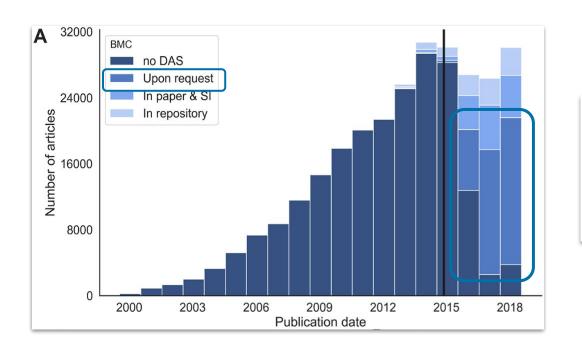




	A		В	
	Weight (lbs.)	Weight (lbs.)	Price	Price
Mileage (mpg)	-108.4*** (-11.60)	-91.22*** (-10.34)	-49.51 (-0.57)	21.85 (0.29)
Car type		-550.1*** (-4.96)		3673.1 *** (5.37)
Weight (lbs.)			1.747** (2.72)	3.465*** (5.49)
Constant	5328.8*** (25.85)	5125.7*** (27.93)	1946.1 (0.54)	-5853.7 (-1.73)
Observations	74	74	74	74

The problem

Data Availability Statements are better than nothing... but only just



60% of open access papers state their data are "available on request".

The problem

Data Availability Statements are better than nothing... but only just



Journal of Clinical Epidemiology

Available online 30 May 2022
In Press, Journal Pre-proof ?



Original Article

Many researchers were not compliant with their published data sharing statement: mixed-methods study

Mirko Gabelica ¹ ☑, Ružica Bojčić ² ☑, Livia Puljak ³ △ ☑

Show more V



"Only **6.8%** of authors stating 'Available on request' actually supply their data when requested."

Our first step was to provide advice to authors who want to open their data Springer Nature Research Data helpdesk

Support for authors:

- Compliance with the policies of their funders and institutions
- Information on the data policy of their target journal(s)
- Identifying and using appropriate data repositories
- Data reporting standards

Support for editors:

- Understanding and implementing a data policy
- Identifying appropriate repositories for their journal
- Dealing with peer review of sensitive/human data
- Best practice for integration into the literature



Authors and editors can visit https://www.springernature.com/gp/authors/research-data/helpdesk or email researchdata@springernature.com for help and advice.

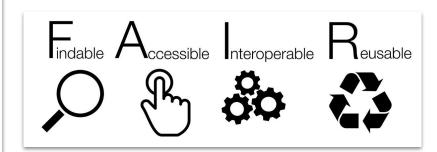
Data sharing done right

Use of data repositories

Data availability

All RNA-Seq data has been deposited to Gene Expression Omnibus with accession number SE111459 for whole blood data and GSE122377 for CSE data.

- globally unique and persistent identifier
- long-term storage of data and metadata
- ✓ specialist repositories group similar data together
- funder and journal policy compliance
- data files frequently previewed and accompanied by rich metadata
- ✓ licensing and reuse of data made clear



Integrating with the figshare data repository into the submission process

Lowering the barrier of effort for best practice

Springer Nature has partnered with **figshare** at seven Nature Portfolio and Academic Journals, providing authors with a simple solution to share their data into a repository.

- Ease of use: facilitating deposition during manuscript submission encourages data sharing by authors who haven't yet used a repository.
- Automation: integrated deposition is quick, easy and allows coordination of manuscript and data progress.
- Integrity: data are made available to reviewers and editors prior to being made publicly available.
- Control: data are stored privately until publication of the related article.
- Expert support: data specialists check all submissions and provide feedback to authors.
- Flexibility: submissions can be handled up to 50GB, covering a wide range of disciplines and data types.





ACADEMIC JOURNALS ON NATURE COM



Submit

Check

Share

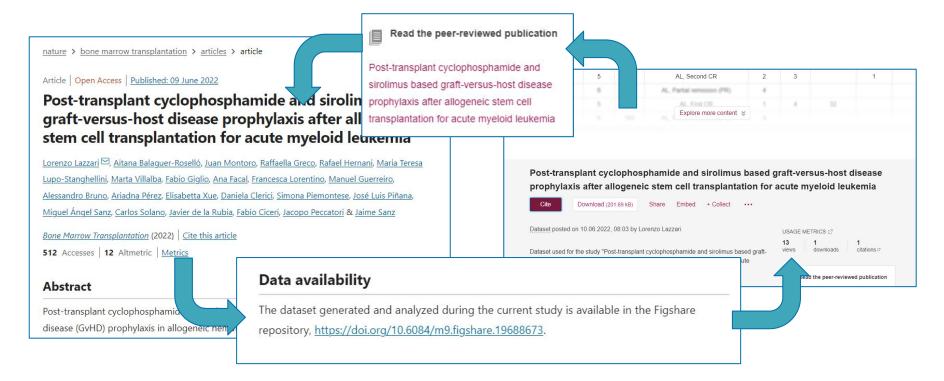
- Authors add their data to figshare from within the manuscript submission system, no separate login or searching for repositories.
- One **simple form** to submit files and metadata.

- Data are stored privately
 & made available to
 reviewers.
- Specialist data checks are performed on scope, presence of sensitive data, rights issues, file and metadata integrity.
- Guidance on data citation and general support is provided.

- Progress is coordinated with the manuscript.
- Data are shared in the <u>Springer Nature figshare</u> <u>repository</u> and linked to the manuscript.
- Authors have a persistent, citable data record with clear licence for reuse.

The published output

Linked article and data



Results of the figshare integration pilot

The rate of uptake is modest but encouraging (that is, greater than we expected)

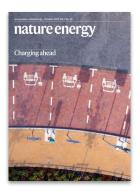
The 10 week pilot period saw data deposited to figshare from 13% of submitted manuscripts across the seven journals — *Nature Chemistry, Nature Ecology & Evolution, Nature Energy, Nature Neuroscience, Bone Marrow Transplantation, Oncogene,* and *Oncogenesis* — with uptake ranging from ~9 to ~17%.

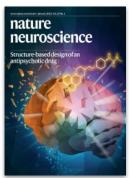
This is on top of data sharing that was already happening via specialist repositories.

Based on this, the data sharing will continue on these journals and expand to seven more journals including Nature, Nature Biomedical Engineering, Nature Cancer, Nature Cell Biology, Nature Metabolism, Nature Plants, Nature Metabolism, Nature Water.













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