

Interactive comment on “Technical Note: Open-paleo-data implementation pilot – The PAGES 2k special issue” by Darrell Kaufman and PAGES 2k special-issue editorial team

Darrell Kaufman and PAGES 2k special-issue editorial team

darrell.kaufman@nau.edu

Received and published: 22 February 2018

We appreciate the comment from Edward Cook expressing concerns about forcing early career researchers (ECRs) to give up their data prematurely before their projects are completed. Cook advocates for flexibility in the policy that data need to be made public at the time of publication. In contrast, we stand with the affirmations of many professional scientific organizations that reproducible science requires that the underlying data (and essential metadata) be released as part of a peer-reviewed study. We also believe that open-data practices benefit ECRs because they can lead to new collaborations, greater impact and exposure, and because best practices in data stewardship

C1

reflect positively on an ECR.

We are not aware of a situation in the PAGES 2k special issue that required ECRs to give up their sensitive data. The situation described in the Karoly et al. comment relates to data that were attributed to a previous publication, but not publicly archived, then used in the commenters' synthesis study years later. Authors who did not want to follow the recommended data policies could have moved their paper to a regular issue of the journal (for a more complete explanation, see our reply <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2017-157-AC1>).

We believe that scooping of data in paleoclimatology is rare and that its risk is outweighed by the scientific benefits of data sharing. If, however, further discussion reveal that open-data policies truly pose a significant obstacle for ECR's pursuit of scientific careers, then we will be among those to search and advocate for solutions. For example, one option that could be explored as a step toward alleviating concerns about releasing ECR data prematurely is to attach an “ECR-data notice” to datasets submitted to public repositories. The notice would alert potential data users that the data are part of an ongoing ECR project. It could solicit new collaborations with other scientists who are interested in the data and provide contact details for the data generator. While this approach does not guarantee that data will be used by others only within the time frame specified, we suspect that it would help to avoid inadvertent use of data that might conflict with the near-term plans of an ECR. There are issues related to this approach that would need to be considered and we encourage further discussion on this topic.

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2017-157>, 2017.

C2