

Reviewer Report

Title: Open Data Governance at the Canadian Open Neuroscience Platform (CONP): From the Walled Garden to the Arboretum

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Reviewer name: Anita Bandrowski

Reviewer Comments to Author:

I have reviewed the manuscript entitled "Open Data Governance at the Canadian Open Neuroscience Platform (CONP): From the Walled Garden to the Arboretum"

This manuscript is clearly written and will be valuable to the community as a means to explain what the CONP is and what is its unique contribution.

However I will absolutely under no circumstances accept this point made by the authors about how metadata may be kept

"...and the GitHub open software repository to host the dataset metadata"

The authors seem to believe erroneously that GitHub is an open software repository that can permanently host dataset metadata. While this may be relatively true for pair repositories this is not generally true. They fail to understand that this open software repository is not persistent. They may not recommend ANYWHERE (manuscript or on their website) the use of GitHub as a repository! GitHub is owned by Microsoft and removes or eliminates repositories that are no longer actively developed much to the dismay of many grad students and postdocs who have had to beg Microsoft to bring back their data, with little success. The only way to guarantee anything from GitHub is to push a copy of the repo to Zenodo. Unless the policy at GitHub has recently changed, which I would need evidence for, this point must be clearly addressed.

A major omission of this work is also in the lack of discussion of the role of INCF in policy, standards setting and the contribution of this important international organization in this space. As far as I understand it, the CONP took significant work from INCF and enhanced it, but this manuscript does not address the role that INCF has played.

On a more minor point, it would be useful if CONP would create some sort of ontology based search or at least would use a standard lemmatization library in their search box. I searched for Alzheimers and got 0 results while Alzheimer brought back several studies. That omission of simple search technologies is simply unacceptable in the age of google, and Chat bots.

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