

Bring Your Own Data (BYOD) workshop – the basic elements

A tailored programme is set up for each BYOD because it involves a unique combination of data owners and data sets. In principle, all BYODs contain the following elements:

Preparation

Prior to the BYOD, one or two webinars are organised to introduce the principles to the attendees, to point them to preparatory materials, and to provide the starting points for a BYOD: a list of questions from data owners and a list of existing linked data sets by the data experts. Having specific research questions or workflows at hand that cannot be answered with the data in its original format is also helpful to demonstrate the added value of the FAIR linked data approach. Good preparation is very important since a lot of time can be saved during the BYOD if data models and, for instance, the most relevant vocabularies and ontologies have been defined beforehand.

Execution

The first two days of the three-day BYOD are dedicated to transforming the data owners' data into FAIR data using the FAIR Data unit's technology and guidelines, meanwhile providing hands-on training for both the data owners and the future FAIR linked data experts.

Together, data owners and data experts work out a showcase to demonstrate the added value of FAIR data in answering specific research questions of the data owner using multiple integrated data resources. At the end of every BYOD, data owners will also get an overview of the potential of the interlinked data. In our experience, this demonstration will trigger the imagination and will bring about novel questions that can be answered using unimagined combinations of data.

The newly transformed FAIR data is then deposited in either an open or closed (in case of proprietary data) repository with the original data remaining at the data owner's location. The FAIR Data Unit will host this repository.

The last day of the BYOD is dedicated to exploration of the data using analytics tools.

Follow up

After a BYOD, data owners are familiar enough with the basic principles of making data FAIR, allowing them to use the FAIR data approach themselves. For further support, two teleconferences are planned to follow up after 2-3 and 6-8 weeks, to tackle any problems the data owners might encounter.