

# Data Managers' Perspectives on Designated Communities and FAIR Principles

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## Introduction

This study explores how data managers address changes to Designated Communities and what is their view of the FAIR Principles.

## Case

Petroleum Database Management System (PDMS) hosted by the Indiana Geological and Water Survey (IGWS).

PDMS data – information on 83,000 petroleum-related wells in Indiana:

- SQL database,
- 282,164 digitally scanned images of logs, reports, and other documents,
- Paper records,
- Physical samples.

## Research Questions

**RQ1:** What was the original Designated Community (DC) of the PDMS?

**RQ2:** How did the data managers at IGWS support this DC?

**RQ3:** How and when did the data managers identify new DCs for PDMS?

**RQ4:** What resources and support did these DCs need and how did IGWS staff accommodate those needs?

**RQ5:** What was the IGWS data managers' awareness of the FAIR Principles?

**RQ6:** What was their perceived adherence of the PDMS data to the FAIR Principles?

## Methods

Semi-structured interviews with 10 diverse staff members of the IGWS.

## Preliminary Findings

- **Findings related to RQ1:** Initial DC for PDMS was researchers at oil and drilling companies (circa 1980s).
- **Findings related to RQ2:** IGWS staff offered guidance in navigating the collection and provided domain knowledge necessary to reuse the PDMS data.
- **Findings related to RQ3:** New DCs for PDMS included researchers at academic institutions and the public (circa 2000s).
- **Findings related to RQ4:** IGWS staff developed new ways of interacting with the data online, e.g. Map Viewer.
- **Findings related to RQ5:** Participants' familiarity with FAIR ranged from a deep awareness and comprehension of the Principles to a lack of awareness about them.
- **Findings related to RQ6:** Participants noticed challenges in making the PDMS data more FAIR, especially regarding interoperability of the data.

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"Integrated doctoral education with application to scholarly communication"

