

Increasing Research Transparency Using the Open Science Framework

Jennifer Freeman Smith gave a demonstration of the Open Science Framework, a web platform for researchers developed by the Center for Open Science. The Open Science Framework (OSF) provides free and open source project management support for researchers across the entire research lifecycle. As a collaboration tool, the OSF helps researchers work on projects privately with a limited number of collaborators and make parts of their projects public, or make all the project publicly accessible for broader dissemination. As a workflow system, the OSF enables connections to the many services researchers already use to streamline their process and increase efficiency. As a flexible repository, it can store and archive research data, protocols, and materials.

Jennifer began her presentation with a brief discussion of how issues in reproducibility can be addressed in part by adopting open workflows as a normative practice. She then demonstrated how to create and structure a project on the OSF; how to upload files and track version history using the OSF's built in version control; how to connect third party services like Google Drive, Dropbox, Github, Amazon S3, box, and Zotero; how to selectively open one's workflow by adjusting the public/private settings of projects and components; and how to increase the impact of one's research through citations, sharing of persistent identifiers, file downloads, and other analytics. She closed by encouraging people to experiment creating projects on the OSF and seeing if the system would be appropriate for them.