

# Data... so what's the problem?

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Digital data, tools and methods are changing everything, including the way research occurs and the societal challenges that we can address. All areas of research are becoming ever more dependent on data and eResearch. The underpinning, pervasive nature of data is shown by the breadth of talks in the eResearch Australasia conference program. eResearch is now simply research.

We care about data to enable discovery, to speed up research, to generate new knowledge that will make a difference. Ultimately, we undertake research to have an impact on people's lives.

A discussion of the challenges and opportunities now includes terms such as sensitive data, access to government data, open data, FAIR data, and trusted data. Along with buzz words such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Cloud. Our first problem is a lack of shared understanding of these concepts. What does 'sensitive data' mean for health research or for defence technologies?

This talk will examine a number of these terms to identify specific challenges that are preventing us from achieving the full impact of our research.