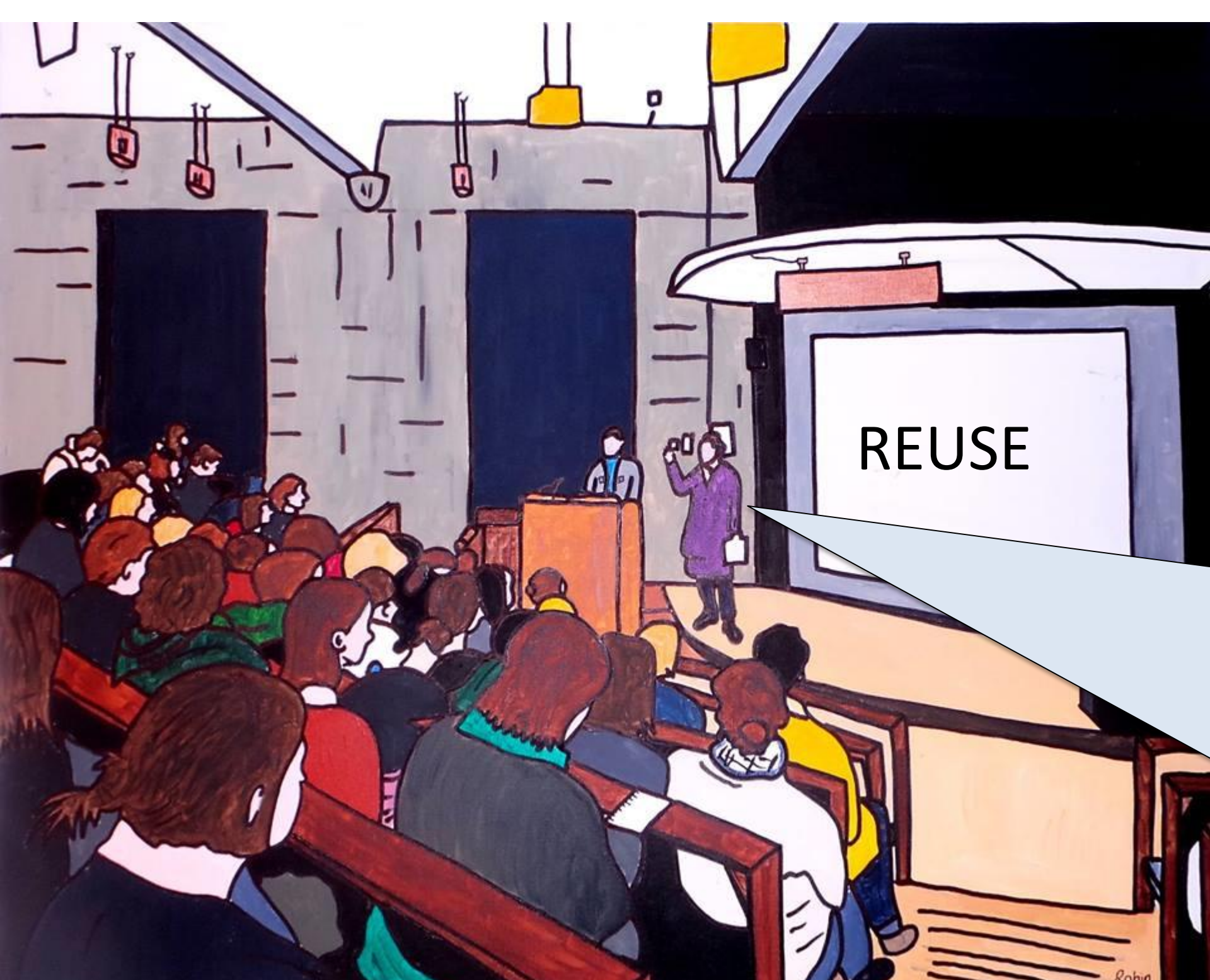# Understanding the 'R' in the FAIR Principles

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"**Why should you be interested in making your data FAIR?**
Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable"
Benefits: Gain maximum potential from your dataset, increase citations and visibility of research, improve data reliability, align with standards, achieve maximum impact from research, promote sharing, discoverability and increased reuse of data, to name a few…

"**But what about the reuse of my data, what's important and what should I consider?**"
Reusable data needs to maintain its richness. It should be licensed and provide provenance information on how the data was formed. Metadata standards should be applied to give rich contextual information that will allow for reuse. Data should conform to community norms.

"**So how can I make my data more reusable?**"
Share data through the use of a repository, provide sufficient metadata and clear provenance information about the 'how', 'why', and by 'whom' data have been created and processed, use standard formats, use an established open license, ensure metadata meets domain standards. Check out the ARDC FAIR Self-Assessment Tool for support.

"**What can I do to improve the management of my data?**"
The writing of a research data management plan (RDMP) helps support the process of data management. Data will be organised, easier to access, rules behind reuse assigned such as licenses so others know how to reuse the data, potential reduction in data loss, increased collaborations and maybe rewards for sharing data.

Summary: To be able to reuse research data, to answer new questions or to reproduce initial results, the researchers require richly described and documented metadata that gives sufficient context about the research, and a clear license to be applied.

Resources:
www.ands-nectar-rds.org.au/fair-tool
https://www.ands.org.au/working-with-data/fairdata/training
https://www.force11.org/fairprinciples
(Artwork by Robin Burgess)