



## Why and How to Demonstrate Data and Methods Transparency in Nonprofit Research

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This paper sets out the context, risks, and benefits of increased transparency in non-profit research and offers practical suggestions to researchers and practitioners to support more openness.

Transparency benefits the non-profit sector and should be the gold standard of non-profit research whilst respecting different research traditions.

Improvement in transparency can be achieved whilst accommodating the diversity of research methodologies. The adoption of a flexible range of tools and approaches to the research process can enhance accuracy, efficiency, trust, and funding to the benefit of both researchers and the wider non-profit sector.

### #Transparency #ResearchMethodology #Nonprofit #EpistemicDiversity

- Non-profit research encompasses **diverse methodologies and knowledge goals**. One size fits all transparency policies have excluded certain research traditions due to the sensitivities of sharing datasets. Inclusive and flexible transparency policies, co-created with researchers, can prevent discrimination against researchers in traditions less suited to transparent practice.
- Increased transparency **benefits the non-profit sector as a whole**, improving access to robust and replicable research on which to build further study and practical application of findings. It can prevent selective reporting of best practices, improving the validity and replicability of findings. **Transparency is a core value** in science and the social sciences risks lagging behind in its adoption.
- **For researchers in all traditions, improving access to data and research methodologies confers benefits**: Sharing data encourages scrutiny, fostering rigor and research integrity and increases the likelihood of the research being used. It can support publication and citation enhancing career success.
- Despite the many benefits, there is **some reticence to embrace adoption**. The additional workload of adopting more transparent practices is a concern particularly if the work is not recognised. The unsuitability of open research practices for interpretative qualitative methodologies particularly in relation to reproducibility and generalisability is a cited barrier.

## Background

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## Context



# ERNOP Research Note

## Academic articles on philanthropy through a practitioner lens

### Take aways & Learnings

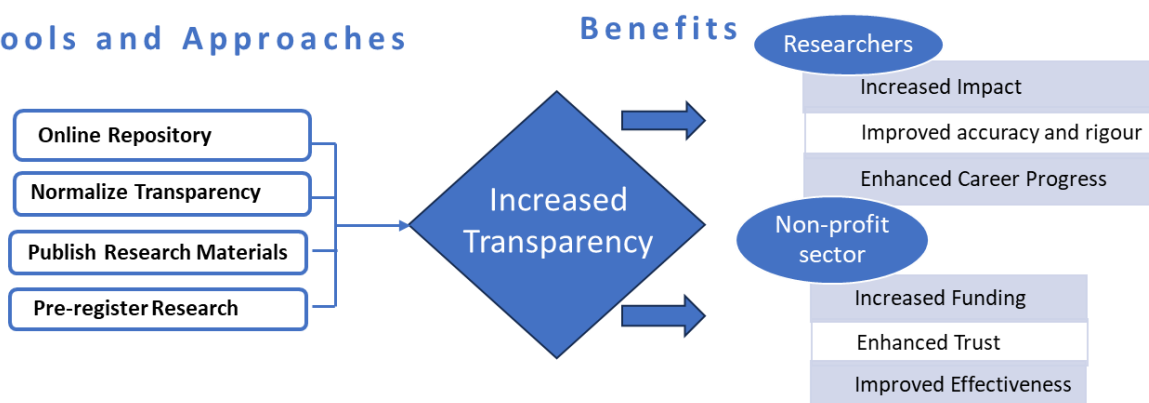


The authors propose a flexible “buffet” of tools and approaches that promote openness from which researchers can select those appropriate to their research tradition.

- **Store supplementary research materials and data on online repositories.** Materials can be made as public or private as required, with no limits on volume. Work is easily identified, searchable, and easier to cite, and it diminishes the risk of duplication of research or being scooped by other researchers.
- **Pre-register research** via platforms such as Open Science Framework or PROSPERO. Registration requires creation of a detailed plan, before data analysis and collection. The aim is not to shackle researchers to an initial outline rather to increase openness about research intentions and results and minimise opportunities for post results hypothesizing.
- **Make materials publicly available:** Publish research materials, share and annotate code used to analyse large datasets, share codebook for qualitative research and secondary materials such as questionnaire, cite secondary data sources, anonymise qualitative data in order to publish and share.
- **Normalise transparency:** Through leveraging social norms researchers can encourage wider transparency. Be explicit in sharing how to promote transparency at conferences, in research papers and when reviewing papers request that authors to share materials.

### Tools and Approaches

### Benefits



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