Results of the survey

CALL within the Digital Humanities: considering CALL journals, research data and the sharing of research results

21st October 2013, Thierry Chanier

Context


Taking the opportunity this conference presentation offered, I invited colleagues who were subscribers to the EUROCALL and CALICO mailing lists to participate in an online survey. Here are the results of this survey.

The survey was anonymous. 91 people completed it.
Answers to questions

1/17. In which country are you working?

Researchers from 21 countries participated. By decreasing order of frequency: USA (20), UK (14), France (10), Spain (9), Italy and Canada (5), Finland and Japan (4), Ireland (3), other countries 1 or 2 people.

2/17. Are you a teacher of English?

37 survey participants are teachers of English (41%)

3/17 Are you a (near-)native speaker of English?

63 survey participants are (near) native English speakers (69%)
4/17. How many publications do you have in languages other than English?

![Figure 2: Publications not in English](image)

Figure 2: 74% have published one or more papers in languages other than English.

5/17. Would you be willing to publish in a CALL journal in a language other than English?

![Figure 3: Publish in other language](image)

Figure 3: Inner circle (NNS English speaker), outer circle (NS of English)

85% of non-native speakers of English, and 63% of native speakers are willing to publish in other languages. Note that there currently exist several CALL journal published in countries were English is not the official language (nor the second), for example, in Asia. However, publications in these journals are in English.
6/17. If the journal does not publish predominantly in English, but has a standard rate of selection, an international board of reviewers and authors from different countries, would you consider this journal as being international?

81% of respondents consider that not publishing in English does not prevent the journal from being considered as international, provided that scientific criteria are fulfilled.

Answers to questions 5 and 6 clearly indicate that there exist opportunities to open CALL journals in other languages, like the ALSIC journal did in French (only 10 French participants here). Of course, as explained during the conference, this journal should have close relationships with already existing journals.

7/17. Are you aware that, in some countries, publishing research work - data/corpora, literary critics, software, etc.) may be considered as the equivalent of a paper published in a top-rank journal?

41 survey participants (45%) answered “yes”. A significant part of our community realizes that the “publish or perish” paradigm is shifting towards more consideration to productive works (other kinds of research results).
8/17. Suppose you submit a paper to a journal which is based on research data, would you be willing to deposit your data for the review process?

![Deposit data graph](image)

Not all papers submitted to our journals are based on data. However, when they are, 83% of survey participants would accept to deposit their data in order to be taken into account for this data to be considered during the review process.

9/17. Suppose you submit a paper to a journal which is based on research data, if the journal requires your data for the review process, would you:

18 survey participants would submit their paper to another journal, whilst 73 (80%) would accept to submit despite these conditions. This result is consistent with question eight. These standpoints are promising for the support that could be brought to Datapublication projects (see Chanier, 2013b) and [http://datapublication.org](http://datapublication.org)

10/17. Have you already done some research on data that you personally did not collect or that was collected from a learning situation in which you were not involved?

![Use of other's data](image)
Nearly 70% of survey participants have never worked on data that they did not produce themselves, whereas 20% of survey participants did it on several occasions.

11/17. If research data from learning situations was available in open-access formats, would you be interested in doing research on this data that you did not personally collect?

12% of respondents are not interested in working on data coming out of learning situations where they were not involved (in green). Almost all these respondents answered that they had never worked on other’s data (left-hand side of figure 7).

On the contrary, 88% of researchers find that doing some research on learning situations they did not design nor tutor may be of interest (in blue and red), and among them 16% would like to try as soon as these data could be open access.

It is interesting to note that within the people who had never worked on other’s data (left-hand side of figure 7), a large majority of them are willing to try.

**Figure 7**: data from question 11 gathered following answers to the previous question 10 (on the abscissa axe)
12/17. What proportion of your publications do you deposit as open access?

60% of researchers give open access to, at least, half of their publications. 38% of respondents to almost all of them.

16/17. If you have deposited some publications as open access, where were they deposited?

Possible answers were:
- I have not done any deposit
- in open archives (institutional, national, thematic, etc.)
- on your website
- other location

20 participants said they never had done any deposit. Figure 9 displays the proportion (%) of locations were the other 70 respondents who do deposit their works choose to deposit. Since several choices were possible, the total amount is higher than 100%.

Figure 9: Proportions in % of locations where participants give open access to their publications.
13/17. Do you give open access to other works (software, learning object, corpora, teaching materials, data, etc.)?

29 respondents frequently freely share their works, 42 occasionally, and 20 never. In other words, 78% of respondents share their work either frequently or occasionally, and 22% have never done this (they may not have produce work which they deem valuable to share).

**Figure 10:** results gathered following answers to question 12. OA to publications are on the horizontal axis.

When we try to compare these answers with behavior with respect to open access to publications (question 12), things are not clear cut. In figure 10 the set of elements on the left concern researchers who deposit in open access nearly all (80% or more) their publications; in the middle half of their publication and, on the right, almost none (10% or 0). On one side, 22% of respondents who share all their publications, never share other works, whereas, on the other side, 71% of people who never put their publications in open access do share (either occasionally or frequently) some of their works.
Figure 11: results gathered following answers to question 11. Researchers who have used other’s data are on the horizontal axis.

Figure 11 links responses to question 11 (working on data collected by others) and question 13 (willingness to share works). 74% of researchers who never worked on other’s data do share their works (frequently or occasionally). 89% of people who have used other’s data (once or several times), share their works. In other words, concerning this 74%, part of the community who share (occasionally or regularly) their work (other than publications) have never had the habit of working on others’ data, on situations where they were not involved in. This may explain a certain tendency to reinvent the wheel, to always work on new environments without taking the time to link results, to adopt a more scientific approach.

Here two explanations from researchers who would be willing to share work, but could not:

(Ex1) I can’t give open access because of review board restrictions on privacy. No one but the researcher may have access. “I haven’t (yet) published the software I have developed for my research, but although I am very much interested in doing so (ideally under a copy-left, attribute, noncommercial, share-alike license), the research system of which I make part does not stimulate this (and this is an understatement).

(Ex2) The reason is that in my country, CALL projects are to a large extent funded by the industry, or are considered to result in university spin-offs, and hence need to be intellectually protected, etc. I understand that this system may result in jobs in the creative industry, but consider this a major impediment to conducting independent and collaborative (international) scientific research!”

14/17. If you give open access to works other than publications, have you been acknowledged for this? Rewarded? Briefly explain how?

Out of 33 answers, 13 respondents said they had received no reward, nor acknowledgment.
Among the 20 others, the form of feedback they felt when sharing works were:

- Mentioned (9): the word is ambiguous: some used the word “acknowledgement” (how, where, in papers?)
- References / citations (2): only 2 referred to this way of referencing her/his own work in papers or being referred to by other authors in papers.
- Research funding, opportunities to participate to research projects (3)
- Institutional award of acknowledgement (3)
- Invited to conferences (2)
- Increase web presence (1)
- Thanks (1) and self-pleasure to share (1)!

It is interesting to note the variety of ways for receiving positive feedback.

One way to formalize the acknowledgment would be, firstly, to have precise ways to refer to research output that are shared by our community, and use them in publications. Then, secondly, head of research councils or journal editors could recommend to authors ways to refer to their work in their papers (with references included within the bibliographic section). Authors could then list these references in their official list of works during evaluation processes (either individual or institutional). Once these works figure in publication lists, academic institutions have well established process to rewarding researchers (individual promotion, money rewards, etc.)

15/17. If you give open access to your research results, what kind of license would you prefer:

Respondents could make several choices among:

- CC-BY: Creative Common (CC) license which requires attribution
- CC-BY-NC: CC license which requires attribution and forbid automatic reuse use for commercial purpose (commercial usages may be possible after explicit author’s acceptance)
- CC-BY-ND: CC license which requires attribution and forbid derivative work.
- CC-BY-SA: CC license which requires attribution and oblige user who make derivative work to share it alike (with the same license)
- CC-BY-NC-ND: composition of previous ones
- CC-BY-NC-SA: composition of previous ones
- No license
- Other license: there exist numerous licenses more appropriate for sharing specific types of works like software, for example.

Figure 12 displays respondents’ choices. 8% said if they share their work they would not use a license, which may in fact raise serious issues when people want to reuse it (see slides from my talk). Fortunately, only a minority (16%) would use licenses with the ND feature, because this kind of prohibition runs against the research process, which is a cumulative and derivative process in itself. In nearly half of the choices (46%), people choose to forbid automatic commercial use (among them, the CC-BY-NC was the most popular among all choices). It is a usual posture in the academic world to prevent commercial use. However, recommendations for OpenData insist on changing this position.
17/17. Occasionally, would you be ready to waive your intellectual property rights when you deposit data (data, not publications), provided that your data can be clearly cited / referred to?

11 researchers said they did not understand the question (actually a fairly unusual and new question, see my slides). Figure 13 is very promising for the OpenData perspective, because 76% of people who made a choice declared they would ready to waive their intellectual property rights, provided that they would be clearly acknowledge for their work.

![Waive your IPR?](image)

Appendix

The spreadsheet containing all the results to this survey is available alongside this document. Comments and notifications of possible errors are welcomed by the author. I would like to thank Ciara Wingham for having reread this document.