

Workshop

**Writing manuscripts for Official Statistics journals: Guidelines for practitioners and researchers:
8, 10 and 15 February 2022**

**ISI/ISR, IAOS/SJIAOS IASS/SS, StatisticsSweden/JOS, Statistics
Canada/SMJ, Wiley, IOSPress**

SESSION 2: FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Working efficiently to structure and draft – Steve MacFeely (WHO)

Some initial steps... clarify what you are going to say – and why? – the 'so what?'

(1) Pick a working title

(2) Map out story outline – chapter headings

- introduction
- literature review
- methodology
- results
- discussion
- conclusion

- introduction
- problem
- literature review
- proposed solution
- relative pros and cons of your solution
- conclusion

(3) Write short abstract

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Some additional planning

(1) Selecting a journal

- *Free / Pay*
- *Open / closed access*
- *Journal ranking / impact*
- *Content*
- *Turn around time*

(2) Schedule

(3) One paper or several?

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Literature review (what – who – when)

(1) Provide context – history of progress or development

(2) Part narrative, part critique

(3) Balance 'grey' and 'white' literature

(4) Record as you go along (software tools available e.g. Zotero)

Content

1. Submission of Manuscripts	1
2. Preparation of Manuscripts before submission (JOS style guide)	2
The authors are asked to submit:	2
a) A separate title page with	2
b) Body of the manuscript. The manuscript:	2
c) Reference citation	3
d) Supplemental files	5
3. Evaluation Procedure and Outcomes	5

1. Submission of Manuscripts

Manuscripts should be submitted via the Journal of Official Statistics (JOS) ScholarOne - Manuscript Management Portal (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/joffstats>).

Accepted formats are .doc(x) and .pdf . If your paper is accepted, for editing and setting purposes, we prefer Word or Latex format. Please provide tables and figures as separate files, preferably in .jpg format.

All manuscripts are refereed and evaluated on content, language and presentation.

The peer review process is double blinded. There are no fees for submitting or processing the article before publication.

If the manuscript is accepted for publication, the paper will be language edited by the JOS Office.

We use Cross-Check for plagiarism control (read more here: <http://www.ithenticate.com/products/crosscheck>).

When submitting a manuscript, the authors will be asked to confirm that the manuscript:

- has not already been published in a peer-reviewed journal in the same or a very similar version, or in another language,
- is not under consideration for publication in any other peer-reviewed journal,
- topic is within the scope of JOS (see www.scb.se/jos),
- follows the JOS style guide (see below section 2 for preparations),
- is blinded and that a separate title page with complete information on all the authors has been prepared.

Submission of revisions

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Example

It was described by Hulme (2009, 4) as 'the world's biggest promise.'

Hulme, D. 2009. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): A short history of the world's biggest promise. BWPI Working Paper 100, Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester. Available at: <https://www.unidev.info/Portals/0/pdf/bwpi-wp10009.pdf> (accessed June 2018).

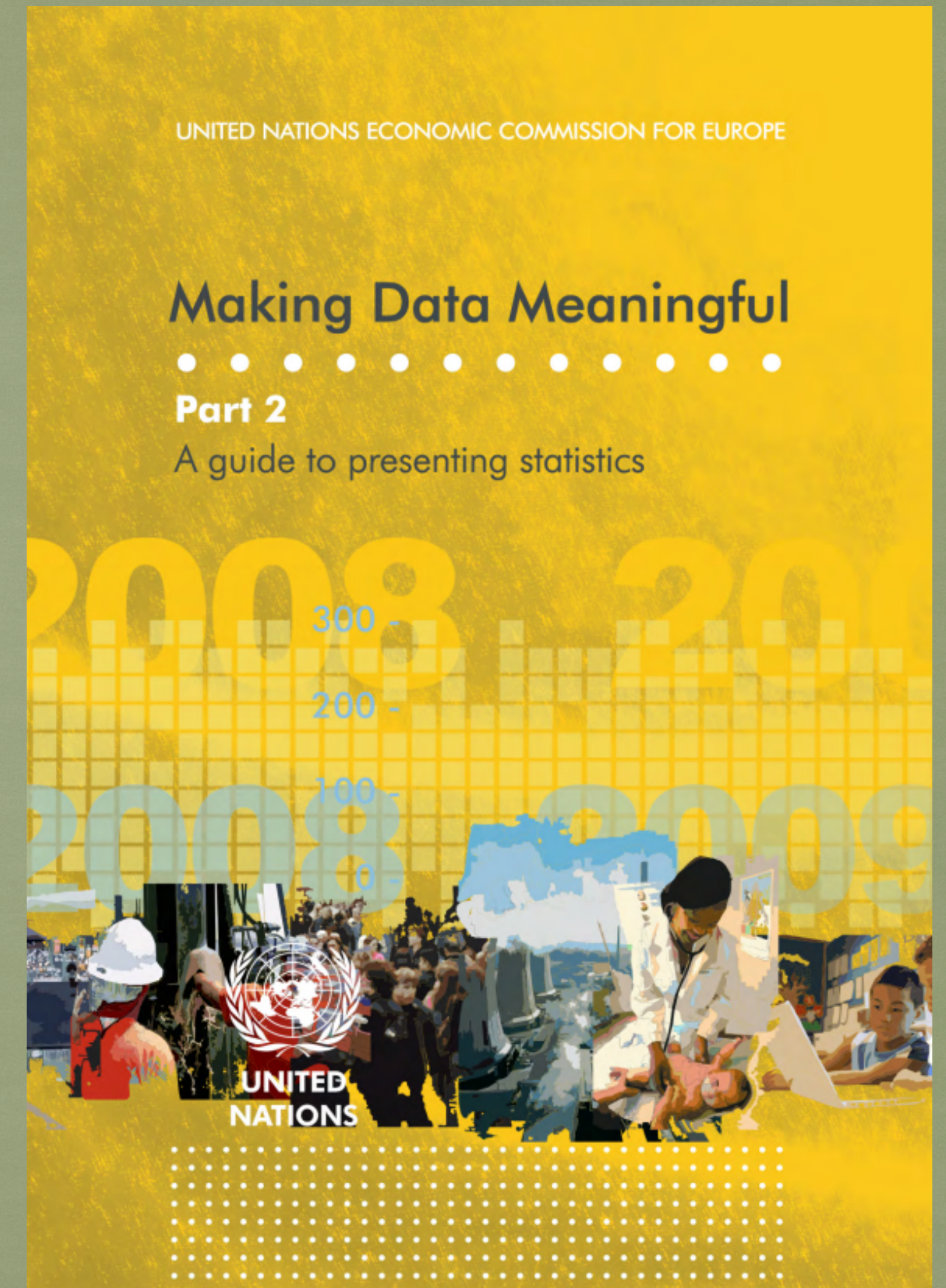
Taylor, L. (2006). The ethics of big data as a public good: which public? Whose good? The Royal Society. Philosophical transactions. Series A, Mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences. 2016 Dec 28; No. 374. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2016.0126> [last accessed: 09.03.2020].

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Figures, Tables and Maps

- (1) File and label figures/tables/maps properly – as you write – don't wait until the end
- (2) Adhere to best statistical standards
- (3) Make sure you have permission to use them (if reproductions)
- (4) Record source, URL (if reproductions)



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Examples

Figure 1. The 6Vs of big data for official statistics.
Derived from Hammer et al. (2017).

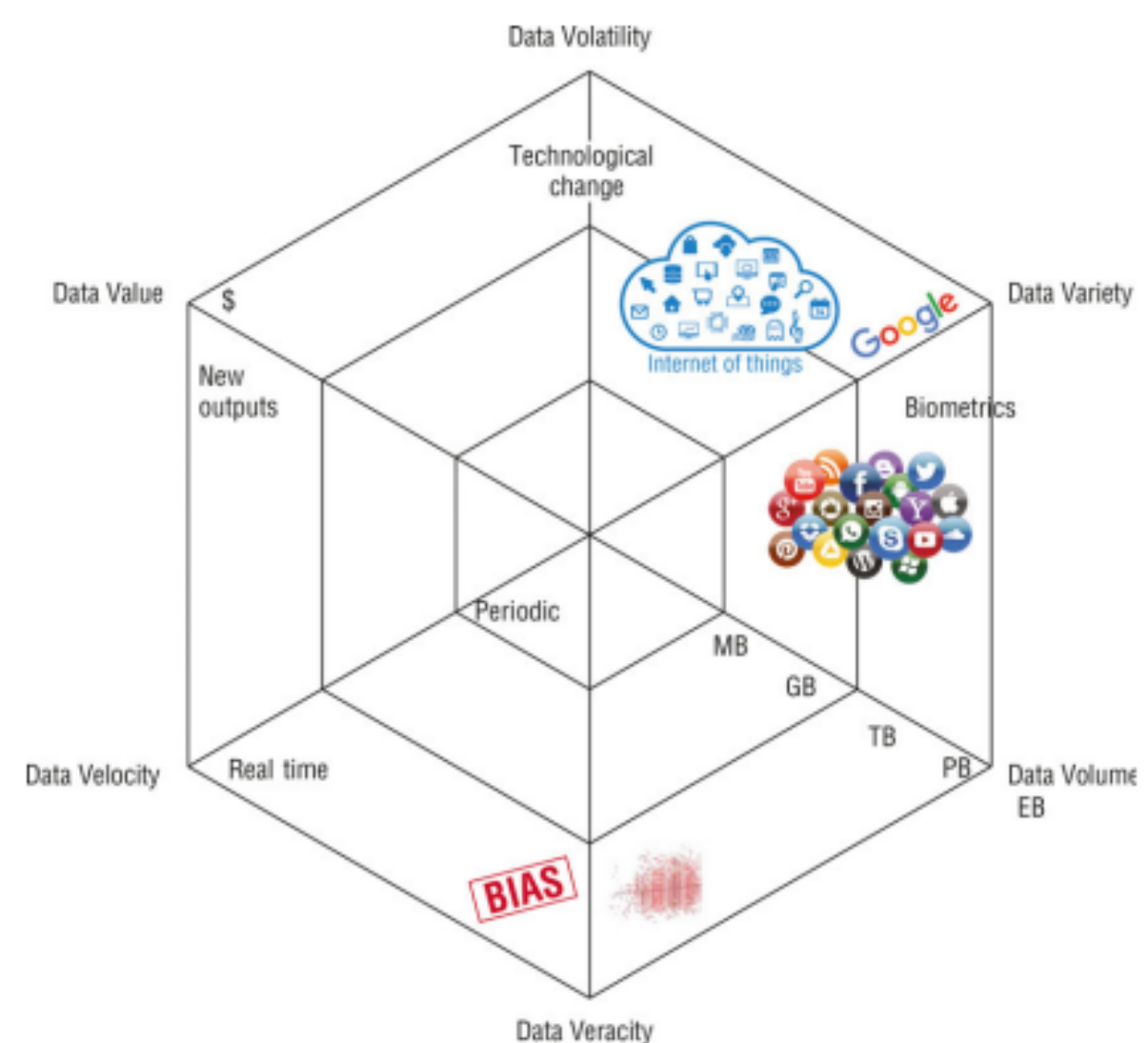


Table 1. Big data sources and project topics registered by National and International Organisations on the UN big data project inventory

Data Source	National	International	Project topic	National	International
Web scraping	22	4	Prices	22	4
Scanner	20	1	Population/migration	10	4
Mobile phone/CDR	14	18	Transport/mobility	9	11
Social media	8	23	Geographical/spatial	8	7
Satellite imagery	6	7	Labour market	7	2
Smart meter	5	1	Agriculture/Land use	6	4
Credit card	3	1	Tourism	5	1
Road sensor	5	–	Health/disease	4	7
Health records	5	2	Energy/Environment	4	6
Ship identification	2	–	Crime/Corruption	2	4
Criminal records	1	2	Poverty/inequality	1	9
			Disaster risk reduction	–	8
Other	20	31	Other	31	24
Total	111	90	Total	109	91

Source: Authors own calculations derived from UN Big Data Project Inventory <https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/inventory/> [examined on 27 April, 2018]¹³.

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Submitting edits

Galley Proof 23/07/2021; 13:23 File: sji-1-sji210851.tex; BOKCTP/xhs p. 7

S. Damouras et al. / Training official statisticians for adaptive statistical practice 7

484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503	the decisions and choices they make have an impact. The selection of variables in a composite index; whether to weight or not; or the treatment of outliers, all affect not only the basic result but perhaps also the alignment to a political or economic ideology. This realisation becomes especially important when thinking about what ‘evidence informed decision making’ really means or the concerns expressed as ‘Governance by numbers’ [40]. This is a growing worry for many as algorithms (or what Tufekci has called ‘semi-savant mini-Frankensteins’ [41]) are playing an increasingly greater role in our lives, from deciding whether we get a loan to whether we are shortlisted for an interview [42,43]. Many other interesting debates are underway, not least, the ‘End of Theory’ argument posited by Anderson [44] that with the emergence of big data, correlation has superseded causation. In other words, hypothesis driven science is redundant. Whether one agrees or not,	specific requirements for training of official statisticians, both traditional and with an eye on the future. Nevertheless, as Zheng [47] points out, “for the ever-expanding skill set and application of Data Science, we can never be able to teach our students enough ‘coping skills’ to handle each situation”. In a world that is always changing, the objectives and function of Official Statistics need constant readjustment [48]. Of course, curriculum renewal is also a continuous process, but it is typically slow and trails developments in the field. So instead of trying to anticipate change, it is better to prepare students for future learning, that is to cultivate their “capacity to learn new information, to use resources effectively and innovatively, and to invent new strategies for learning and problem solving in practice” [49]. This should be an obvious requirement as statisticians, like any other professional, will need to continually update their practice over the lifetime of their career [15]. Nevertheless, this becomes critically important in a fast-changing discipline. In this section	532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551
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178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192	3. Defining the ‘Data Revolution’ Following the publication of ‘A New Global Partnership’ the then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban-Ki Moon, established an Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, asking them to translate the broad-brush concept of a data revolution into something more concrete. In their subsequent 2014 report ‘A World that Counts’ the expert group (or data revolutionaries) concluded that a data revolution is ‘an inspiring vision of a world of fast-flowing data deployed for the public good, and of citizens and governments excited and empowered by the possibilities this creates’ [10, p. 20]. They saw the data revolution as a dazzling vision of how data could support human development. ¹	221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000
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Line 31 - please remove ' ' so that sentence reads ...report A World that Counts [10] could...

Line 151 - Please remove ' ' so that sentence reads ...Persons A New Global Partnership [1] is...
[Please note new should be New]

Line 602 - Please put Libre Culture Manifesto in italics

Line 640 - Please replace two sentences 'In economics literature, a public good is one that is both non-rival and non-excludable [45]. Stiglitz [46] has argued that data are public goods, meaning data are both non-rival and non-excludable.' With... Stiglitz [46] has argued that data are public goods, which in economics literature, means they are both non-rival and non-excludable [45].

Line 708 – please add ‘every year’ so that sentence reads ‘...held in early March every year.

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Poacher turned gamekeeper – acting as a reviewer

- (1) Am I qualified?
- (2) Do I have time to meet deadlines?
- (3) Read paper – does it 'do what it says on the tin'?
- (4) Any content missing?
- (5) Is sequence logical?
- (6) Is methodology appropriate?
- (7) If a problem was identified – is a solution proposed?
- (8) Is language / charts / tables / maps appropriate?
- (9) Is discussion and inference reasonable?
- (10) Conclusions sensible?