

Sharing data in Economics

A case study of De Montfort University's Professor Edward Cartwright

Key Points

- You can share your data easily on DMU Figshare and make your data available before the associated paper is published.
- Making data publicly available means other sources - including media - can reuse and share the data.
- Data sharing in business schools is going to continue to become a priority.

Edward Cartwright is a Professor of Economics in the Department of Strategic Management and Marketing at De Montfort University (DMU). Edward's public research data is available on dmu.figshare.com and his [profile page is available here](#).

Edward studies behavioral and experimental economics and its applications. As part of this research, he conducts surveys and collects data. "There's a very clear steer that data should be made publicly available and it's very easy to do so using DMU Figshare," said Edward.

"In experimental economics, data availability is a big issue that needs a solution," said Edward. "Years ago, people used to just publish papers but the data wasn't available. You could ask the researcher but that would be the only option you'd have. There are now an increasing number of journals that have the data themselves. But that's only published papers - you may want the data before they're published."

One area of research focus is cyber security which involves observing how people behave in cyberspace and human factors in security. Edward and his colleagues collaborated with law enforcement to collect this data. "We definitely want law enforcement and policy makers to have access to this data," said Edward. "Having it publicly available also means that media - particularly cyber-security media - can pick it up and make it accessible to the general public."

Another project Edward is working on involves providing small businesses with a cyber health check. This can involve sensitive data; to make it fit for the public domain, it's anonymized before it's made publicly available.

"In the past, a lot of economists used their own websites to share their research. Links can easily become broken or lost so it's nice to have something like DMU Figshare where that's not going to happen," said Edward.

There's also more acceptance in economics of collating public data together from different sources and sharing those outputs. "There's more acceptance of sharing that data," said Edward. "It was time-consuming, but it should be shared so that other people can use it and cite it. There's now more recognition for citing the person who pulled together that data from different sources."

With regard to the future of data sharing, Edward believes that it's going to continue to be a growing priority, particularly for business schools. "Business schools often aren't trained on data sharing," said Edward. "But that's going to change."