

**Whose responsibility is it to maintain data for others to use?
Should the individual work for the community, or vice versa?**

(Bill Anderson)

The short answer to that last question is "Yes". Rescuing and digitizing the many types of data at risk may be done by small groups of individuals, but maintaining the long-term accessibility and usability of these data will require a community effort. But what is "community effort"? While community-managed assets can face a tragedy of the commons, the real tragedy for rescuing data at risk may be that no commons is established. This talk will review what is known about successful governance of commons that can help us manage a community-based, ongoing process of rescuing data at risk and making them accessible and useful for the long-term.