



## NAS Study Focusing on Integrity of Research Data

ORI and other Federal agencies are supporting a study, *Ensuring the Utility and Integrity of Research Data in a Digital Age*, being conducted by the National Academy of Sciences that may recommend data integrity standards to the research community.

The study, conducted by the Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy, will review the selection, collection, analysis, handling, oversight, reporting, publishing, ownership, access, and archiving of data. The study report is expected to be completed in early 2008. The project website at <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=48721> lists the key issues being addressed as:

1. What are the growing varieties of research data? In addition to issues concerned with the direct products of research, what issues are involved in the treatment of raw data, prepublication data, materials, algorithms, and computer codes?
2. Who owns research data, particularly that which results from Federally-funded research? Is it the public? The research institution? The lab? The researcher?
3. To what extent is a scientist responsible for supplying research data to other scientists (including those who seek to reproduce the research) and to other parties who request them? Is a scientist responsible for supplying data, algorithms and computer codes to other scientists who request them?
4. What challenges does the science and technology community face arising from actions that would compromise the integrity of research data? What steps should be taken by the science and technology community, research institutions, journal publishers, and funders of research in response to these challenges?
5. What are the current standards for accessing and maintaining research data, and, how should these evolve in the future? How might such standards differ for Federally-funded and privately-funded research, and for research conducted in academia, government, non-governmental organizations, and industry?

The study will not address privacy issues and other issues related to human subjects.

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=48798>