Understanding the ‘R’ in the FAIR Principles

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Summary: To be able to reuse research data, to answer new questions or to reproduce initial results, the researchers require richly described and documented metadata that gives sufficient context about the research, and a clear licence to be applied.

“Why should you be interested in making your data FAIR? Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable”
Benefits: Gain maximum potential from your dataset, increase citations and visibility of research, improve data reliability, align with standards, achieve maximum impact from research, promote sharing, discoverability and increased reuse of data, to name a few...

“You shouldn’t hide or be scared of how to reuse your data”
Reusable data needs to maintain its richness. It should be licenced and provide provenance information on how the data was formed. Metadata standards should be applied to give rich contextual information that will allow for reuse. Data should conform to community norms.

“Data reuse can be a bit of a rollercoaster – however support is available”
Share data through the use of a repository, provide sufficient metadata and clear provenance information about the ‘how’, ‘why’, and by ‘whom’ data has been created and processed, use standard formats, use an established open licence, ensure metadata meets domain standards. Check out the ARDC FAIR Self-Assessment Tool for support.

“We need to shout out about data management and the importance of data reuse”
Writing a research data management plan (RDMP) supports the efficiency of data management and reuse. Data will be organised, easier to access, and lead to a reduction in data loss. Assigning licences and improved data provenance will improve collaborations and enhance data sharing and reuse.

Resources:
https://www.force11.org/fairprinciples
(Artwork by Burgess&Bear)