



ICPSR

SHARING DATA TO ADVANCE SCIENCE

Trusting Data Users: Facilitating Access to Restricted Data

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Introduction

- 2017-2019 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation funded research study
- Research team:
 - PI: Margaret Levenstein, Director, ICPSR
 - Allison R. B. Tyler, UMSI
 - Johanna Davidson Bleckman, ICPSR

Introduction



UK Data Service



Data Archiving and Networked Services





Background

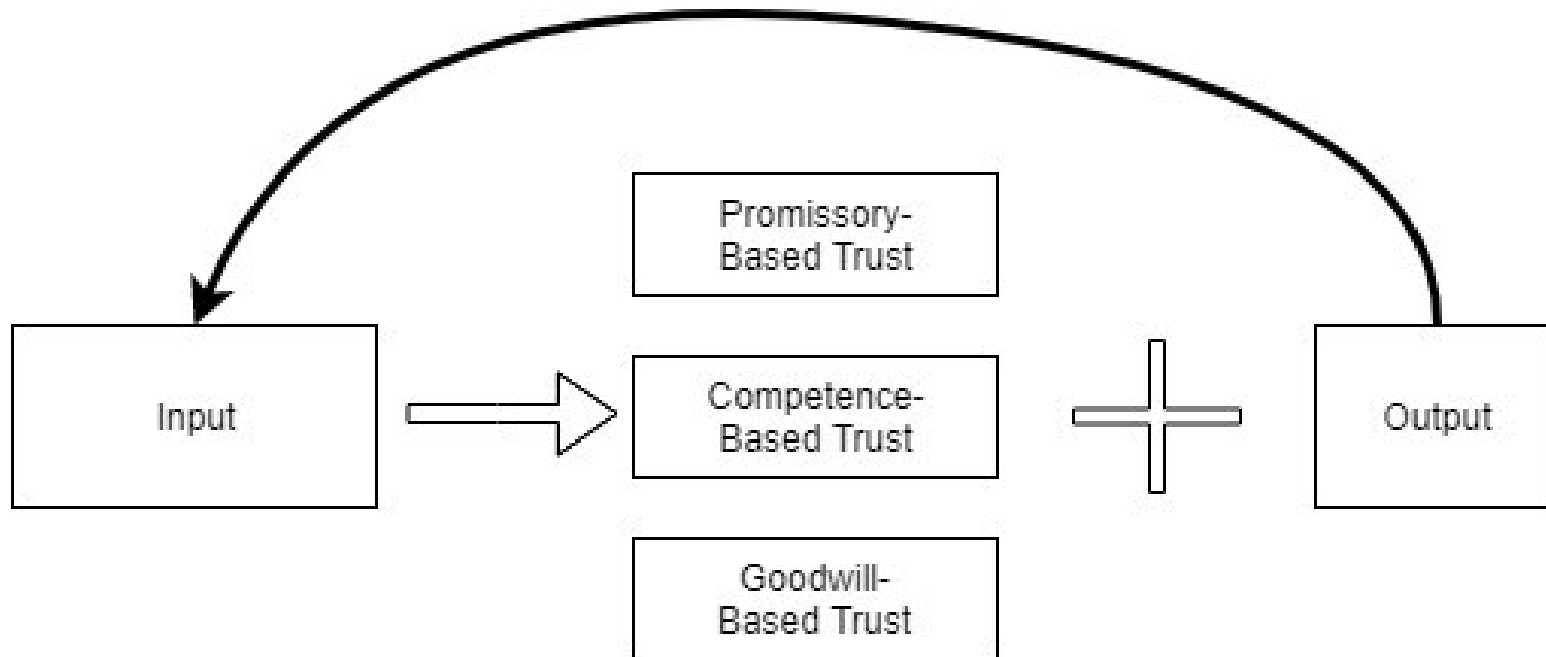
- The relationship between trust and data repositories traditionally focused on **trusted repositories** (Yakel, Faniel, Kriesberg, & Yoon, 2013) and **trustworthy data** (Donaldson, 2016; Rieh, 2002)
- Trust is the **interaction of multiple dimensions of trust** in different contexts (Boersma, Buckley, & Ghauri, 2003)



Background

- An increasing push to make research data available for **reuse** and **secondary analysis** (Holdren, 2013)
- Data security and subject privacy concerns lead to time-consuming **trust development processes** (GPDR, 2018; ICPSR, n.d.)

Theoretical Framework



(Boersma, Buckley, & Ghauri, 2003)



Research Question

What model best explains the process of trust development by data repositories of data users?



Methodology

- Environmental scan

Repositories	23
Interviews	13
Document Analysis	355



Data Collection

- Data access requests
- Data use agreements
- Description of data request process
- Description of data security levels
- Computer security requirements
- Terms of use
- Legal regulations
- Training materials



Findings

Identity

Training

Reputation

Project

Findings



Findings

Identity	
Name	18
Institutional affiliation	18
Contact information	13
Country of residence	10
Supervisor information	7
CV	3

‘if ... you put in your Gmail and **it's impossible for anyone** to go to the University of Michigan and **find you** anywhere, you will also not get access to the data’ (SF006_1)

Findings

Training - Experience	
CV	3
Institutional Affiliation	18
Institutional Role	14
Prior Data Use	2

‘There's a **set of expectations** based upon your affiliation and the previous experience you've got.’ (SF001_1)

Findings

Training - Competence	
Data privacy & confidentiality	4
Responsible data use	2
Information security	2
Disclosure control	2

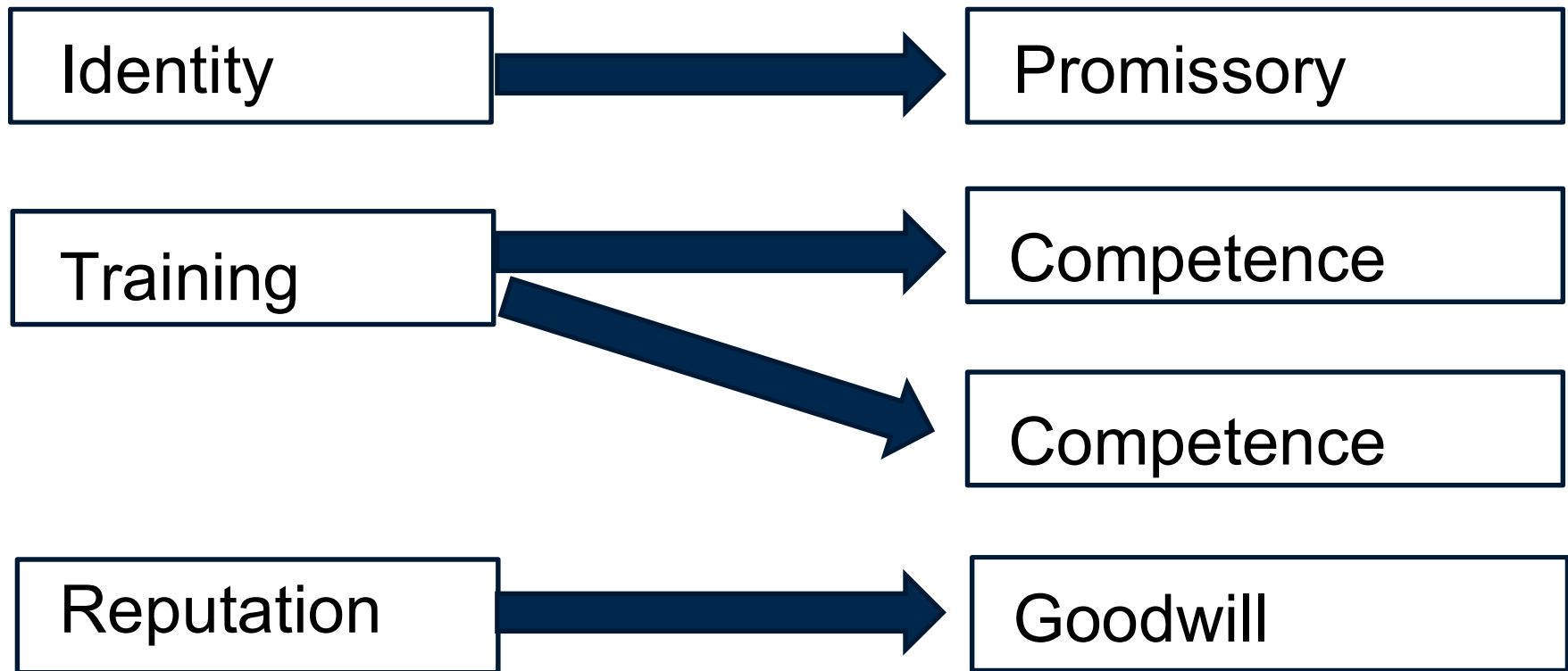
‘We’re working now on basic training for researchers around things like disclosure review, and **how not to do stupid stuff with the data.**’ (SF007_1).

Findings

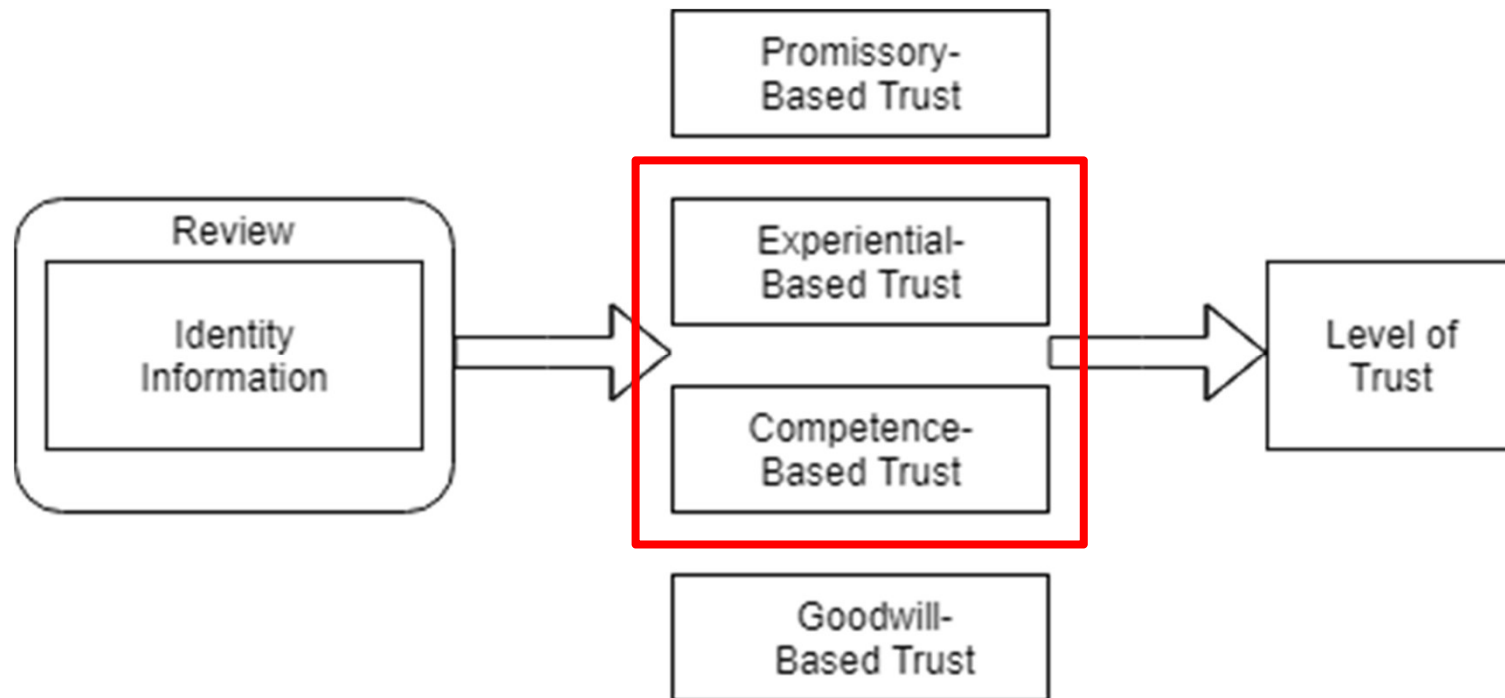
Reputation	
Institutional affiliation	18
Institutional role	14
Training completion	6
CV	3

‘whenever there was a breach ... **every other agency** in Germany is aware that there was a **breach with one person**’ (SF005_1).

Findings



Trust Development

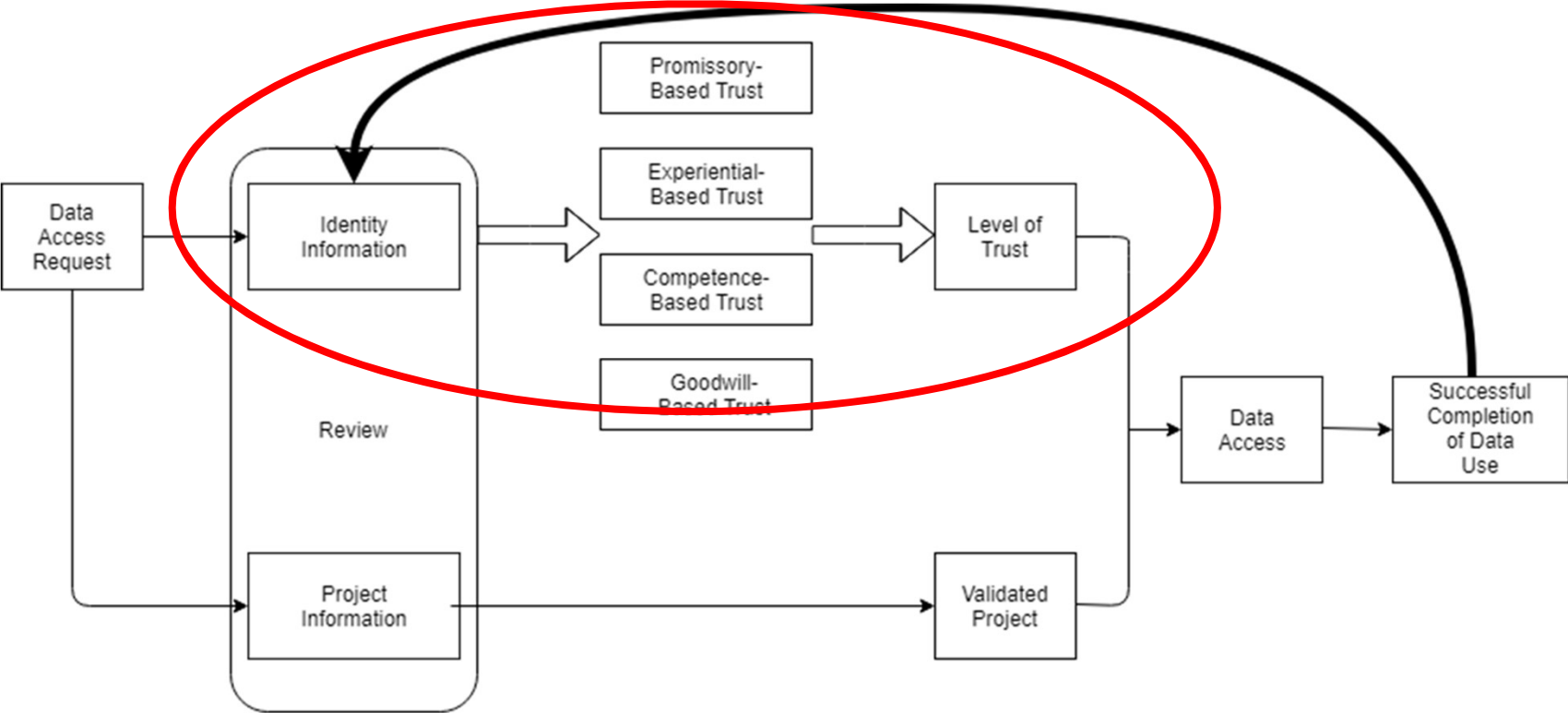




Trust Development

- **Promissory**: the expectation that the researcher can be relied on to **keep to legal agreements**
- **Experience**: the expectation that the researcher is experienced in **conducting responsible** and **ethical research**
- **Competence**: the expectation that the researcher has internalised the **culture of confidentiality** required by restricted data providers, legislation, and data repositories
- **Goodwill**: the researcher will **behave honourably** even where no explicit promises or performance guarantees have been made

Importance of New Model





Implications of New Model

- Can face the challenge of transferring trust and standardizing the process
- Identify the roles of different types of experience in the development of trust
- Identify the differences between policy and implementation



Further Information

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/about/researcher-credentialing.html>

Levenstein, M.C., Tyler, A.R.B., Davidson Bleckman, J. 2018. The Researcher Passport: Improving Data Access and Confidentiality Protection: ICPSR's Strategy for a Community-normed System of Digital Identities of Access. ICPSR White Paper Series No. 1. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/143808>