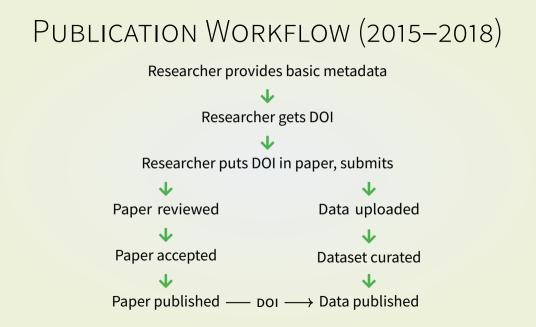
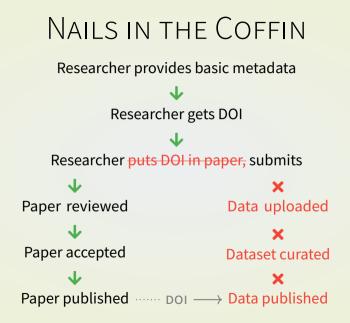
THE TOMBSTONE PROTOCOL

AN UNDERTAKING FOR UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Alexander Ball University of Bath

18 February 2020 15th International Digital Curation Conference, Dublin





THE TOMBSTONE PROTOCOL

Scenarios:



- Dataset published early in error
- Data withdrawn
- Retention period expired

THE TOMBSTONE PROTOCOL

For each scenario

- High level summary of approach to take
- Detailed steps
 - timescales
 - escalation procedures
 - non-availability notice ('epitaph')
 - settings for DataCite and University Research Portal



Scenario: DOI quoted, data uploaded and deposited, dataset stalled in review.Summary: Complete publication process

- 1. Give depositor notice that dataset will be published in 3 weeks' time.
- 2. If no response, complete record.
- 3. Publish record, mint DOI.

EXAMPLE

Scenario: DOI quoted, data not uploaded, dataset not deposited.

Summary: Complete publication process or publish tombstone page

- 1. Contact depositor to encourage completion of record; allow 3 months.
- 2. If no response, give notice that a tombstone will be published in 3 weeks.
- 3. If no response, complete record and add non-availability notice.
- 4. Publish record, mint DOI, change DOI status to 'Registered'.
- 5. Hide record on University Research Portal.

MPACT

- Adopted summer 2019
- 9 incomplete, unreferenced datasets cleared
- 2 incomplete submissions tombstoned
- 1 expired dataset tombstoned
- About 10 zombie datasets revived and published

QUESTIONS?

Alex Ball

Research Data Librarian (Systems) The Library, University of Bath 2017 – present

ab318@bath.ac.uk

The Library

