

LYNN WOOLFREY



Position: Manager, DataFirst
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7700
Cape Town, South Africa
Email: lynn.woolfrey@uct.ac.za
Nationality: South African
Languages: English

SUMMARY

I am data scientist with 20 years' experience curating and sharing disaggregated African data with researchers worldwide. I manage data operations at DataFirst, a data service and research unit at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. I set up and manage Africa's only [CoreTrustSeal](#) certified open data repository. I also established the only secure data centre in Africa, to give researchers safe access to highly disaggregated government data. I train data managers in government and research institutions across Africa and assist governments to assess their data-readiness for Sustainable Development Goal planning and monitoring. My research field of interest is open government data and my Phil thesis examined information ecosystems for data-directed decision-making in African countries.

EDUCATION

1983: Rhodes University: BA Degree
1984: University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg): Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies
1993: University of South Africa: BBibI Honours Degree
2010: University of Cape Town: MPhil in Information Studies

WORK EXPERIENCE

1990 – 2000: Information Officer, University of Cape Town, SALDRU

In 1993 SALDRU conducted a seminal household survey to collect data to inform Post-Apartheid policymaking. As their Information Officer I was responsible for management of the statistical material and data from SALDRU surveys, and data management advisor to SALDRU based survey teams.

2001 – Current: Manager, DataFirst Data Service, University of Cape Town

I have been responsible for Data Services at DataFirst since 2001. DataFirst also undertakes projects to improve the management and usage of African microdata. In this regard I trained African data managers for the OECD funded [Accelerated Data Program](#) and run research data management workshops for Postgraduate students at the University of Cape Town.

AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS

Committee member of [CODATA South Africa](#)
Technical Advisory Board member for the [African Open Science Platform](#)
2010-2018: African Regional Secretary for the [IASSIST](#)
City of Cape Town's Open Data Steering Committee member 2017-2019
DataFirst is a member of the International Council for Science's [World Data Service](#) (WDS)
DataFirst's open data repository is the only repository in Africa which has been accredited with the [CoreTrustSeal](#) international certification for trusted digital repositories.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Woolfrey, L. 2007. [A survey data archive network in Africa – possibilities and practicalities](#). IASSIST Quarterly 31(1)
2. Woolfrey, L. 2007. [The establishment of the African Association of Statistical Data Archivists](#). IASSIST Quarterly 31(2)
3. Woolfrey, L. 2009. [Knowledge utilisation for governance in Africa: evidence-based decision-making and the role of survey data archives in the region](#). Information Development 25(1).
4. Woolfrey, L. 2013. [Innovations for the curation and sharing of African social survey data](#). *Data Science Journal*, Volume 12, 10 April
5. Woolfrey, L. 2013. [Leveraging data in African countries: Curating government microdata for research](#). Cape Town: DataFirst. (DataFirst Technical Paper 22).
6. Woolfrey, L. and Fry, J. 2015. [Managing university research microdata collections](#). *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, 21:1–14, 2015. DOI:10.1080/13614533.2015.1031911
7. Macdonald, S., Dillo, I., Lafferty-Hess, S. Woolfrey, L., and Vardigan, M. 2016. Demonstrating Repository Trustworthiness through the Data Seal of Approval. *IASSIST Quarterly Volume 40 Number 3* http://www.iasistdata.org/sites/default/files/vol_40-3_6_13.pdf
8. Woolfrey L. 2017. Data Management Plan: Opening access to economic data to prevent tobacco related diseases in Africa. *Research Ideas and Outcomes* 3: e1483
<https://doi.org/10.3897/rio.3.e14837>

COMMISSIONED RESEARCH

1. Boyko, E. Greenwell, G. Thomas, W. and Woolfrey, L. 2010. INDEPTH Network iSHARE assessment report. Knoxville, TN: Metadata Technology. Report prepared for the [INDEPTH network](#) on the curation and dissemination of their research data)
2. Woolfrey, L. Audit of data sources for South Africa’s development indicators. 2011. Report prepared for the [Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development](#) in South Africa (PSPPD)
3. Woolfrey, L. 2013. [South African labour market microdata scoping study](#). Report prepared for the Human Sciences Research Council’s [Labour Market Intelligence Partnership](#).
4. Ritchie, F., Green, E., Montgomery, A., Woolfrey, L., et al. 2015. [Enabling data linkage to maximise the value of public health research data](#). 2015. Report prepared for the [Wellcome Trust](#) and the [Public Health Research Data Forum](#)
5. Woolfrey, L. 2014. South African research infrastructure: A proposal for a national data service for the humanities and social sciences. Report prepared for the South African Department of Science and Technology’s Research Infrastructure Roadmap Project.
6. Woolfrey, L. 2014. [UCT Research Data Management policy project](#). Report prepared for the University of Cape Town’s Research Office.

7. Woolfrey, L. 2014. [An Open African Data approach to improving data quality](#). A Development Policy Research Unit Policy Brief commissioned for the World Bank's [Network for Jobs and Development](#) (NJD) Project.
 8. Consultancy for the United National Statistics Division to facilitate the development of National Implementation Plans for monitoring and reporting requirements of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the [UNSD-DFID Project on SDG Monitoring](#). The consultancy involved:
 - An in-depth assessment of existing statistical infrastructure and the identification of national monitoring priorities in Zambia and Zimbabwe
 - Reporting on national capacities in Zambia and Zimbabwe to compile SDG indicators using the [Advanced Data Planning Tool](#) (ADAPT), developed by the [PARIS21 Consortium](#).
 - Facilitating national SDG Indicator Metadata Workshops in Ethiopia and Myanmar to build the capacities of their National Statistical Systems to utilise and report on government data sources for SDG monitoring.
-

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

1. Woolfrey, L. 2008. [DataFirst and data curation](#). Presentation at the *First African Digital Curation Conference*, Pretoria, South Africa 12-13 Feb.
2. Woolfrey, L. 2008. The DataFirst Data Archive in South Africa. Presentation at the *34th IASSIST Conference: Technology of Data: Collection, Communication, Access and Preservation*, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, 27-30 May 2008.
3. Woolfrey, L. 2009. [African microdata access survey: an investigation into current data sharing policies and practices at African National Statistics Offices](#). Presentation at the *57th Session of the International Statistical Institute: Statistics: our Past, Present and Future*, Durban, South Africa, 16-22 August.
4. Woolfrey, L. 2009. Data archiving in Africa: The preservation and sharing of survey microdata to support African research and governance. Presentation at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Centre for Statistics and *United Nations Statistics Division and African Development Bank Regional Workshop on Data Management*, 26 – 28 October 2009, Kampala, Uganda.
5. Woolfrey, L. 2009. The policy as a basis for customer service. Presentation at the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) supported *Zambia National Microdata Dissemination Policy Workshop*, 13-14 April 2010, at the Protea Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia.
6. Woolfrey, L. 2010. Access to government microdata in Africa. Presentation at the *Third Workshop on Data Access*, 26-27 May 2010, held at the Michigan Union, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.
7. Woolfrey, L. [Survey on access to African government microdata for social science research](#). Presentation at the *2010 IASSIST Conference: Social Data and Social Networking: Connecting Social Science Communities across the Globe*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, June 1-4, 2010

8. Woolfrey, L. Skills development to assist data usage for policymaking in Africa. Paper presented at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress held in Gothenburg, 10-15 August 2010
9. Woolfrey, L. and Iturralde, Diego. [Applications to support the curation of African government microdata for research purposes](#). Presented at a Statistics South Africa/OECD/World Bank Seminar on *Innovative Approaches to turn Statistics into Knowledge*, Cape Town International Convention Centre, 8-10 December 2010.
10. Woolfrey, L. DataFirst: Effective data management in Africa. Poster presentation at the *4th African Digital Scholarship and Curation Conference: Innovation and Collaboration in the Digital Research and Learning Environments*, CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria, South Africa, 17 - 19 May 2011.
11. Woolfrey, L and Carter, J. Data services to students to support youth statistical literacy: Evidence from the UK and South Africa. Presentation at the *2011 E-Learning Africa Conference: Spotlight on Youth, Skills and Employability*, Mlimani City Conference Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 25-27 May 2011.
12. Woolfrey, L. Current microdata management practices at DataFirst. Presentation to a United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) *Expert Group Meeting on the Preparation of a Handbook on Data Management Platforms*, United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-5 August 2011.
13. Woolfrey, L. Innovations for the curation and sharing of African social science data. Presentation at the *1st ICSU World Data System Conference: Global Data for Global Science*, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, 3-6 September 2011.
14. Woolfrey, L. Establishing a data curation community of practice. Workshop on data curation at the *14th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations* 13-17 September 2011, Cape Town, South Africa
15. Woolfrey, L. Extending the evidence for African policymaking: promoting data access in African Countries. Presentation at the *4th International Workshop on Data Access (WDA)*, 26 March 2012, Luxembourg.
16. Woolfrey, L. Principles for improved NSS data flows. Presentation at an *Expert Group Meeting on a Framework for Data Flows in National Statistical Systems in Africa*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26-28 June 2012.
17. Woolfrey, L. [South African labour market microdata scoping study](#). *HSRC Seminar Series* presentation, Human Sciences Research Council Video Conference Room, 29 May 2013
18. Woolfrey, L. Data curation best practice. Presentation at a NeDiCC workshop for research data management rookies, *5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship and Curation*, University of KwaZulu Natal, 28 June 2013
19. Woolfrey, L. Data services for users of Statistics South Africa's data. Presentation at Statistics South Africa's *1st Isibalo Symposium*, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch 15-17 July, 2013.

20. Woolfrey, L. [Research Access to African government data: Assessing the Impact of Open Source Tools](#), presentation at the *eResearch Africa Conference*, Southern Sun Newlands, Cape Town, 8 October 2013.
21. Woolfrey, L. [A South African humanities and social science data service](#). Presentation to the *ICSU World Data System Members' Forum*, 2 November 2014; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
22. Woolfrey, L. DataFirst: A Data Seal of Approval case study. Presentation at the *41st IASSIST Conference: Bridging the Data Divide: Data in the International Context*, Minneapolis, MN, 2-5 June 2015.
23. Woolfrey, L. Building data capacity in African countries. Presentation at the *41st IASSIST Conference: Bridging the Data Divide: Data in the International Context*, Minneapolis, MN, 2-5 June 2015.
24. Woolfrey, L. [The rescue of “at risk” data on forced resettlement in South Africa](#). Presentation at an *RDA/CODATA Workshop on the Rescue of Data at Risk*, 8-9 September 2016, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, USA
25. Woolfrey, L. [Collecting tobacco data from across Africa](#): The challenges of data aggregation and sharing. Presentation at *SciDataCon 2016*, 11-13 September 2016, the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado, USA.
26. Woolfrey, L. Open Scholarly Data Infrastructure. Presentation in a session on [Open Scientific Infrastructure: in Search of a Development Model](#), at the *GAIDAR Forum: Russia and the World: Setting Priorities*. Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), Moscow, Russian Federation, 12-14 January 2017.
27. Woolfrey, L. Standards and best practice for curating and sharing research data. Presentation at the [United Nations World Data Forum](#), Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, 15-18 January 2017.
28. Woolfrey, L. [Data Management Principles and Trusted Data Repositories](#). Presentation at a CODATA-ASSAF Workshop on Open Data for Sustainable Development Goals in Developing Countries, Hotel Carlton, Antananarivo, Madagascar, 5 - 6 September 2017.
29. Woolfrey, L. [Data Management Principles, Standards and Tools](#). Presentation at a National Forum ODOS open data open science workshop, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, 30-31 October 2017.
30. Woolfrey, L. Recycle, reuse: Institutional infrastructure for extending the value of government data. Presentation at a [DIRISA National Research Data Workshop](#), CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria, South Africa, 19–21 June 2018.
31. Woolfrey, L. Microdata management for open government data. Presentation at a UN Economic Commission for Africa workshop on modernising statistical data dissemination: Innovation and best practice, Nairobi, Kenya, 27–29 June 2018.

32. Woolfrey, L. [Best practice for long-term curation of research data](#). Presentation at SciDataCon 2018: The digital frontiers of global science, International Data Week, 5-8 November 2018, Gaborone International Convention Centre, Gaborone, Botswana.
33. Woolfrey, L. [Data repository trustworthiness: An African case study](#). Presentation at SciDataCon 2018: The digital frontiers of global science, International Data Week, 5-8 November 2018, Gaborone International Convention Centre, Gaborone, Botswana.
34. Data Rescue: Partnering with SA universities to enable research access to historical survey data. 27th February 2019, Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) Seminar, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch.