

Archiving of Network Research Data

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Exploitation of vulnerability goes often hand-in-hand with actions perpetrated against persons to diminish and control their access to the global internet, undermining resilience of particular persons or groups (Wirtz, 2025). The situations created are called ‘Digital Black Holes’ which are geographic or social spaces that are moderated by gatekeepers and diminish the ability to communicate for those that are gated (Van Reisen et al, 2023). Spivak’s concern of how the subaltern can speak (and be heard, or represented) has a new reality with the digital absence of narratives of people or communities living in digital black holes. The vulnerability associated with the lack of digital presence is weaponised against vulnerable populations by criminal organizations, operating across borders and with access to remote places that can serve as digital black holes.

FAIR data potentially provides a safe and secure way of storing and controlling sensitive data in federated architecture; and SOLID extends this promise to safe personal pods for sensitive data storage. The federated access control potentially revolutionises the way in which we think about data security, control, access and how to moderate the data use and re-use, providing a critical opportunity to enhance understanding of situations in digital black holes. Most importantly this provides new pathways to strengthen agency over narrative and interpretation of situations from an emic perspective.

This session will present the potential of a new paradigm of digital data handling for research. It will emphasize the importance of agency and control over the presence of vulnerable groups in the digital world. The work presented is based on real-life deployment of federated data architectures for sensitive data under strict controls by data producers.