Does the personality of a scientist matter?
A study shows that, depending on a researcher’s personality, different incentives and impediments have different priorities.

A researcher’s personality decides which incentives work well.
Result

Researchers’ willingness to share data often depends on their personality.

Type 2+3+4: Researchers with a high degree of perfectionism consider it important to know who else had access to the data and what they used them for. A similar picture emerges for extrovert and agreeable personalities.

Type 5: Researchers who fear criticism or data falsification can be motivated by knowing exactly how data sharing takes place and who uses their data for which purpose.

Type 1+4: Employer support is an important incentive for open and agreeable personalities.

References:
“Data sharing as social dilemma” is a nationwide, cross-disciplinary study with 1,564 respondents, carried out by the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics within the framework of the Leibniz Research Alliance Science 2.0. The study on the importance of personality factors was headed by Dr Stephanie Linek, researcher at the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics and main author, and resulted from the cooperation of DIW Berlin, Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG), ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics and VU University Amsterdam.

The study of Linek et.al. (2017) is based on the Big Five Model of personality dimensions, i.e. (1) extraversion (tendency to be outgoing), (2) neuroticism (tendency to be sensitive and emotionally unstable), (3) openness (tendency to be curious and inventive), (4) agreeableness (tendency to be friendly, compassionate, and cooperative), and (5) conscientiousness (tendency to be self-disciplined and efficient). In addition, the personality dimensions of Macchiavellianism (manipulative, selfish and instrumental nature) and social desirability were included as well as age and gender as sociodemographic control variables.

The article:
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The Leibniz Research Alliance Open Science is committed to the research and development of working methods, infrastructures, and tools of Open Science. It is engaged in the following three areas of activity (1) Research & Knowledge Transfer, (2) Infrastructure & Tools and (3) Advocacy & Community Building. The alliance, initiated and coordinated by the ZBW, is an association of more than 30 research and information infrastructure institutions from the Leibniz Association, university institutes and libraries, non-university-affiliated research institutions, and other partners. The diversity of these institutions and the wide range of science disciplines and competencies make the alliance unique in the German-speaking region and worldwide.
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