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Keynote: Big Data, Big Opportunities

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Keynote: Big Data, Big Opportunities

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National Digital Stewardship Residency Capstone Meeting
May 28, 2014, 2-5pm
Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Bldg, Room LJ-119

The enthusiasm for big data is obscuring the complexity and diversity of data in scholarship and the challenges for stewardship. Inside the black box of *data* are a plethora of research, technology, and policy issues. Data are not shiny objects that are easily exchanged. Rather, data are representations of observations, objects, or other entities used as evidence of phenomena for the purposes of research or scholarship. Data practices are local, varying from field to field, individual to individual, and country to country. They are a lens to observe the rapidly changing landscape of scholarly work in the sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Data are far more complex objects than are publications, making them much more difficult to manage than other types of material collected by libraries. Yet librarians have the requisite expertise in knowledge representation, organization, and scholarship that is necessary to address the stewardship challenge. By rising to the opportunities presented by the data deluge, libraries and librarians can assert new leadership in the digital age.

[Christine L. Borgman,](#) Professor & Presidential Chair in Information Studies at UCLA, is the author of more than 200 [publications](#) in information studies, computer science, and communication. Her monographs, *[Scholarship in the Digital Age: Information, Infrastructure, and the Internet](#)* (MIT Press, 2007) and *[From Gutenberg to the Global Information Infrastructure: Access to Information in a Networked World](#)* (MIT Press, 2000), each won the [Best Information Science Book of the Year](#) award from the American Society for Information Science and Technology. Her next book, *Big Data, Little Data, No Data: Scholarship in the Networked World*, is forthcoming from MIT Press in late 2014. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Association for Computing Machinery, and a recipient of the [Paul Evan Peters Award](#) from the Coalition for Networked Information, Association for Research Libraries, and EDUCAUSE, and the [Research in Information Science Award](#) from the American Association of Information Science and Technology. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the [Electronic Privacy Information Center](#), and previously served on the U.S. National Academies' [Board on Research Data and Information](#) and the U.S. National [CODATA](#).