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
Orcid ID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8328-7091
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/lynn-woolfrey-b7951ba/

SUMMARY

I am a data scientist in the field of data curation with 30 years' experience curating and sharing data from African governments and research institutions. I am responsible for data services and operations at DataFirst, at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. DataFirst's Open Data repository gives researchers open access to African social science and health data. Our repository was the first and one of only two repositories in Africa to achieve the international CoreTrustSeal certification as a trusted digital repository. My team and I work closely with data depositors to present their data in the most research-ready formats and to report on the impact of the reuse of their data. At UCT I also established a Secure Research Data Centre to widen research access to sensitive and highly detailed African data.

One of my roles is to assist governments and researchers to manage and share their data. I have lectured in Research Data Management for the Digital Curation Masters Programme in the Department of Knowledge and Information Stewardship at UCT and run Research Data Management Planning workshops for postgraduates at the University. I assisted the university's Research Office with a report on a Research Data Management policy for the institution and have run workshops for university administrators on institutional research data management policymaking. My team and I also run data curation training workshops for government agencies and research institutions across Africa. The workshops involve setting up data repository software and training data managers in microdata and metadata management.

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EDUCATION

1983:	Rhodes University: BA Degree, English, History, and Classical Civilization Majors
1984:	University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg): Higher Diploma in Library Studies
1993:	University of South Africa: BBibl Honours Degree
2010:	University of Cape Town: MPhil in Library and Information Science

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WORK EXPERIENCE

1990 – 2000: Librarian/Information Officer, Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) University of Cape Town

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 data and supporting documentation from SALDRU surveys. I was also data management advisor to SALDRU based survey research teams.

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

I have been responsible for Data Operations and Services at DataFirst since 2001. In that time, DataFirst has provided generations of researchers with easy access to quality-checked data from African governments and research institutions. DataFirst's open data site has also become the only internationally certified research data repository in Africa. I have passed on lessons learned from long-term data management by running data curation training workshops, and consulting on UN-sponsored African statistical capacity-building programmes.

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ADVISORY POSITIONS AND AWARDS

2011 – 2018	UN Economic Commission for Africa Data Expert Group member
2010 – 2018	African Regional Secretary for the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST)
2014 - 2023	Member of South Africa's National Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)
2016 – 2019	Technical Advisory Board member, African Open Science Platform
2017 – 2020	Member of the City of Cape Town's Open Data Steering Committee
2021 – present	Advisory Committee member, Department of Knowledge and Information Stewardship, University of Cape Town
2022 – present	Member of the Governing Board of DataCite

DataFirst's Data Repository Certifications

2013 – 2022	Member of the International Council for Science's World Data System (WDS)
2014 - 2018	Awarded the International data repository Data Seal of Approval (DSA)
2018 – 2025	Holder of the CoreTrustSeal international certification for Trusted Digital Repositories (which integrates the WDG and DSA awards)

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ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Copy Editing
I have 16 years' experience in copy editing of academic works – books, journal articles, and theses – for economists and other social scientists as well as for academic research projects in South Africa and abroad.

Data curation platform expertise
I am conversant in the following software tools for data and metadata management:

- The World Bank-developed National Data Archive microdata cataloguing and dissemination platform (Administrator level)
- The community-developed metadata management software, Nesstar Publisher (trainer-level expertise)
- The ADAPT data gap assessment tool developed by the PARIS21 donor consortium

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TRAINING AND OTHER CONSULTANCIES

1. 2010 (October)
   Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OEDC)-funded consultancy for the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) to present use of data dissemination tools developed by the International Household Survey Network at a regional workshop for Statistics Agencies in Nairobi, Kenya.

2. 2011 (March)
   Consultancy for the OECD-funded Accelerated Data Program to train data managers from the World Bank's multi-country RuralStruc Project in metadata management in Cape Town, South Africa.

3. 2013 (April)
   World Bank funded assistance to the Namibia Statistics Agency in microdata and metadata management in Windhoek, Namibia.

4. 2013 (November)
   OECD-ADP consultancy to co-facilitate a microdata and metadata management workshop using the OECD's Microdata management toolkit. Training was for staff of the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics, in Maseru, Lesotho.

5. 2014 (February)
   OECD-ADP consultancy to facilitate microdata and metadata management workshops for the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) in Kigali, Rwanda and Statistics Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana.

6. 2014 (June)
Co-organisation of a regional workshop with the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) of the OECD and the World Bank's International Household Survey Network in Cape Town, South Africa.

7. 2015 (January)
World Bank consultancy to organise the installation of data dissemination software and facilitate a microdata and metadata management workshop at the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat) in Harare, Zimbabwe.

8. 2015 (June)
OECD consultancy to facilitate a regional microdata and metadata management workshop for data managers from various African statistics agencies in Accra, Ghana. The consultancy included the development a pre-proposal paper/document to evaluate the institutional arrangements for establishing an African Inter-university Data Consortium.

9. 2018 (September)-2019 (February)
Consultancy for the United National Statistics Division (UNSD) 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.

10. 2019 (October)
UNU WIDER-TIED consultancy to install a metadata dissemination platform and give training in microdata and metadata management to staff of the National Treasury's Secure Data Facility which makes tax data available on-site for accredited researchers in Pretoria, South Africa.

11. 2019 (November)
Consultancy for the UNSD-DFID Project on SDG Monitoring to facilitate the compilation of and validate metadata for Zambia and Zimbabwe's SDG indicators and co-facilitate SDG metadata management training workshops in Lusaka, Zambia, and Harare, Zimbabwe.

12. 2020 (December) -2021 (March)

Consultancy for the UN-DESA/UNSD To develop a guide and training materials for governments to prepare evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The guide and training materials are based on past VNR workshops and VNRs and other documents held by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

13. 2020 (July 22)
Expert interview for Springer Nature's online course Managing Research Data to Unlock its Full Potential.

14. 2020 (November 24)
Open Data Governance Models for Data Management at Research Institutions.   Webinar for Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University

15. 2021 (August 2-5)
Microdata curation for secure data centres. Online training course organised staff for of the South African Revenue Service and National Treasury's Secure Data Facility. Implemented by the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER). Undertaken under the UNU-WIDER Research Programme: Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Development (SA-TIED).

16. 2021 (October 18-22)
Microdata and Metadata Management for National Statistics Agencies: Webinar organised for the staff of the national statistics agency in Mozambique, the Instituto Nacional de Estatistica (INE).

17. 2022 (March 22-25)
Microdata and Metadata Management Training webinar organised by UNU-WIDER for staff of Secure Data Centres at Revenue Authorities in Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

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. Woolfrey, L. 2020. South Africa: DataFirst case study. Country study contribution to OECD publication: Enhanced access to publicly funded data for science, technology, and innovation.

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ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

1. Woolfrey, L. 2007. A survey data archive network in Africa – possibilities and practicalities. IASSIST Quarterly 31(1). DOI: https://doi.org/10.29173/iq611

2. Woolfrey, L. 2007. The establishment of the African Association of Statistical Data Archivists. IASSIST Quarterly 31(2). DOI: 10.29173/iq762

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). **DOI:** https://doi.org/10.1177/0266666908101261

4. Woolfrey, L. 2013. Innovations for the curation and sharing of African social survey data. Data Science Journal, Volume 12, 10 April. DOI: 10.2481/dsj.WDS-031

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 Vol 40 No. 3. DOI: https://doi.org/10.29173/iq396

8. Woolfrey L. 2017. Data Management Plan: Opening access to economic data to prevent tobacco related diseases in Africa. Research Ideas and Outcomes 3 https://doi.org/10.3897/rio.3.e14837

9. Haysom, G., McDougall, B., Owuor, S., Nickanor, N., Raimundo, I., Kazembe, L., Woolfrey, L. and Crush, J. 2023. Opening Access to Urban Food Security Data in Africa from the Hungry Cities Partnership. HCP Discussion Paper No. 60, Waterloo and Cape Town.

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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, SA, 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. 2010. 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. DOI: doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3781807

8. Woolfrey. L. 2010. [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. 2010. 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: 2011. 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. 2011. 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. 2011. 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. 2011. 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. 2011. [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. 2012. 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. 2012. 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. 2013. [South African labour market microdata scoping study](#). HSRC Seminar Series presentation, Human Sciences Research Council Video Conference Room, 29 May 2013

18. Woolfrey, L. 2013. 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. 2013. Data services for users of Statistics South Africa's data. Presentation at Statistics South Africa's 1st Isibalo Symposium, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch 15-17 July 2013.

20. Woolfrey, L. 2013. 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. 2014. 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. 2015. 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. 2016. 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

24. Woolfrey, L. 2016. 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.

25. Woolfrey, L. 2017. 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.

26. Woolfrey, 2017. 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.

27. Woolfrey, L. 2017. 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.

28. Woolfrey, L. 2017. 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.

29. Woolfrey, L. 2018. 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.

30. Woolfrey, L. 2018. 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.

31. Woolfrey, L. 2018. 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.

32. Woolfrey, L. 2018. Data repository trustworthiness: An African case study. Presentation at SciDataCon 2018: The digital frontiers of global science, International Data Week, Gaborone International Convention Centre, Gaborone, Botswana. 5-8 November 2018.

33. Woolfrey, L. 2019. Data Rescue: Partnering with SA universities to enable research access to historical survey data. Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) Seminar, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch. 27th February 2019.

34. Woolfrey, L. 2019. Opening up data for social well-being research in South Africa. Guest lecture, KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP), University of KwaZulu-Natal, 11th April 2019.

35. Woolfrey, L. 2019. How data-ready are African governments to monitor SDG progress? African Centre for Cities SDG Seminar Series presentation, Davies Library, ENGEO Building University of Cape Town, 15th May 2019.

36. Woolfrey, L. 2019. Microdata Dissemination as an Element of the Ethical Management of Census Data. Presentation at a UN Economic Commission for Africa Expert Group Meeting on census Data Collection and Dissemination, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 1-5, 2019.

37. Woolfrey, L. 2020. Open government data as a framework for the ethical governance of health data. 2020. Presentation to the SA Medical Research Council's Health Systems Research Unit. Theme: Secondary Datasets for Population Health Research in South Africa: Datasets, process, access barriers and facilitators, 10 March 2020. SAMRC Boardroom, Cape Town.

38. Woolfrey, L. 2020. How Data-Ready are Governments to Monitor SDG Progress? An Assessment of Socioeconomic Data for SDG Planning and Reporting in Egypt, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. ERF 26th Annual Conference on Sustainable Development Goals as a Framework for MENA's Development Policy, Webinar Session, 15 July 2020.

39. Woolfrey, L. 2020. FAIR access to research infrastructure. Springer Nature Virtual Roundtable: Better Research through Better Data, 4-5 November 2020.

40. Woolfrey, L. 2022. Census microdata dissemination. Workshop organised by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) on improving the use and impact of census results, Lusaka, Zambia, April 25-28, 2022.

41. Woolfrey, L. 2022. How SDG data-ready are African governments and can open government data frameworks help? International Data Week 2022: Data to Improve our World, 20-23 June 2022, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

42. Woolfrey, L. 2022. Presentation on data resources at DataFirst, Data Training Workshop Institute of Social Research, Rhodes University, 27-29 June.

43. Woolfrey, L. 2023. Infrastructure to enable open government data in African countries. SciDataCon at International Data Week 2023: A Festival of Data, 23 - 26 October, Salzburg, Austria.