ABSTRACT: Data narratives or data stories have emerged as a new form of the scholarly communication focused on data. In this paper, we explore the potential value of data narratives and the requirements for data stories to enhance scholarly communication. We examine three types of data stories that form a continuum from the less to the more structured: the DataONE data stories, the Data Curation Profiles, and the Data Descriptors from the journal *Scientific Data*.

**Position Statement:** We take the position that these data stories will increase the value of scholarly communication if they are linked to the datasets and to the publications that describe results, and have instructional value.

- **First person narrative constructs a persona**
- **Provides a human dimension to research**
- **Highlights unique issues for data curation of specific datasets**
- **Provides basis of case-studies for instruction**

- **Highly structured criteria**
- **Provides insight into data life cycle**
- **Provides a guide for discussing data with researchers**
- **Help identify needs and gaps in services**

**Conclusion:** In this paper, we have presented three types of data stories, the DataONE stories, the Data Curation Profiles (DCP), and the Data Descriptors from *Scientific Data*. Data stories are on a spectrum, anecdotal and inclusive of a human dimension with informative value (DataONE), with structure and criteria (DCP), to validated, with peer-review and dataset deposit (Data Descriptors). We believe that data stories, across the spectrum, are of value. There is scholarly value in terms of providing, in a structured narrative, context and applicable information for the reuse of data. Stories with structure adhering to specified criteria and peer-reviewed stories fit into this category. Stories without these characteristics, such as the DataONE stories, add instructional value and can be used as a learning tool in data management.

**Citations**