

The Data Horror Virtual Escape Room

Lightning talk for the INCONECSS
Community Meeting

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Data Horror Escape Room

- The Escape Room is a website;
- Launch of the Escape Room in October 2020, Data Horror Week;
- The objective was to create a fun way to introduce researchers and others to data management without presenting it as too much of an administrative task (which it really isn't!);
- Collaborative effort between three Dutch universities;
- Several live playing events since;
- A presentation at the LIBER conference in 2021 and various other events.

Playing the Escape Room

- Players are “locked” in a professor’s office;
- They have to submit the professor’s data management plan to escape;
- Six puzzles that are each about a theme in data management plans:
 - Personal data
 - FAIR data
 - Sharing data (internationally)
 - Archiving data
 - Persistent identifiers
 - Metadata

Dear Professor Hutseepluts,

Home A

My colleague has been studying the distribution of parasitic infections of bats across the world and I believe there might be a correlation between certain bat infections and the number of spectral apparitions that are observed in a place. I think it would be very interesting to combine the dataset with yours.

Have you been using a standard metadata scheme for identifying countries or geographic locations of your observances? We must agree on a standard way of identifying the locations of our bat infections and spectral incidents so that we can easily combine our datasets to look for these correlations.

Such a surprising positive result would lead to opportunities for further investigation of the causes and we would already propose to collect blood serum and brain imaging/MRI data from your human case studies and from our bats. We must discuss how we will collect and organise this data so that we can make our datasets “interoperable”.

Let us not waste time! We could expect to produce together a high impact paper in, for example, Nature.

Please take a look at the dataset I am referring to using the following DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.3369922](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3369922)

Yours, in academic respect,

Image: Data Horror Escape Room 2020

Practical information

- We used Google Sites for the website and Google Forms for the puzzles;
- Published under a CC BY SA 4.0 licence;
- Several requests for remixing and adapting from various European universities;
- A follow-up in the form of an Open Science Escape Room
- We think collaboration is important for this type of game.

Any questions?
(You can also ask me
questions in the
breakout room!)



"Conference question", xkcd comics, <https://xkcd.com/2191>