Interactive comment on “Technical Note: Open-paleo-data implementation pilot – The PAGES 2k special issue” by Darrell Kaufman and PAGES 2k special-issue editorial team

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Received and published: 23 February 2018

The basic principle underlying this PAGES data stewardship activity is that publications need to be accompanied by publicly available data. Not everyone agrees with this first step, making it difficult to resolve the countless secondary issues, individual cases, and permutations that follow. All journals promote data archiving, but only a few enforce it. No wonder; data policies are sticky for both authors and editors.

Where do we go from here? Are the current data-publishing practices optimal, or have we arrived at a point in the evolution of our science and technology when our community decides that it values its data resources enough to make open-data practices
the norm? Is there agreement that the added long-term, community-wide benefits outweigh the additional burden? There will always be reasonable exceptions, but is it time now for us to fully commit?

I agree with Denis-Didier Rousseau, co-editor in chief of this journal, who has encouraged readers to take advantage of this public platform for an open discussion on this crucial issue.