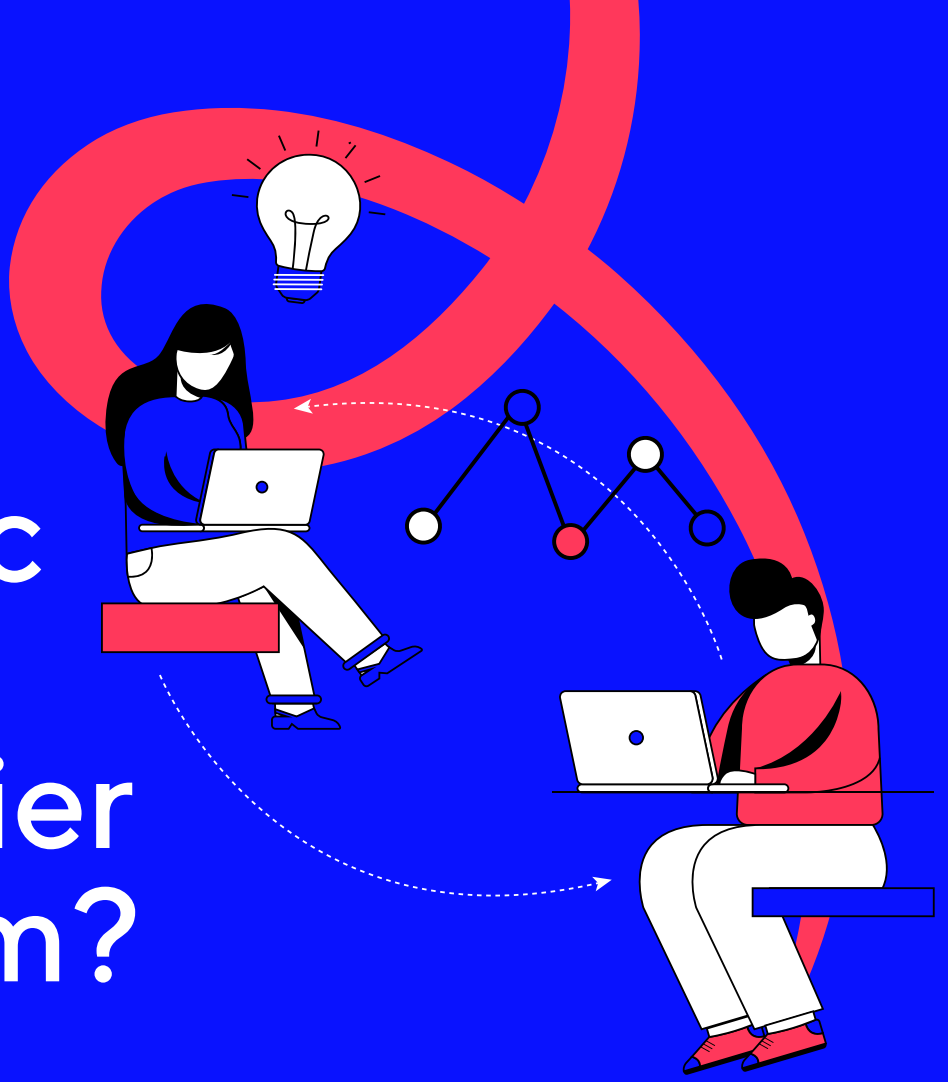
Curator

How to curate scientific data to tell scientific stories and make it easier for others to reuse them?



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PARCOS
Participatory Communication of Science

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About the Curator Cards

What?

The Curator Cards present a set of principles that support the visualisation of data for participatory science storytelling.
The Curator Cards can help decide which (aspects of a) dataset are relevant to provide evidence for a scientific story and which formats to choose to communicate to which audience.

For whom?

The cards can be used by anyone who wants to present data as part of science communication.
It helps them to make the data easier to understand for people engaging with the story.

Why?

The data Curator Cards are intended to convey data to a general audience so that the experience is engaging, easy, and fun.

NOT THE TOOL YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

Discover the other tools for participatory science communication developed within the ParCos project here.

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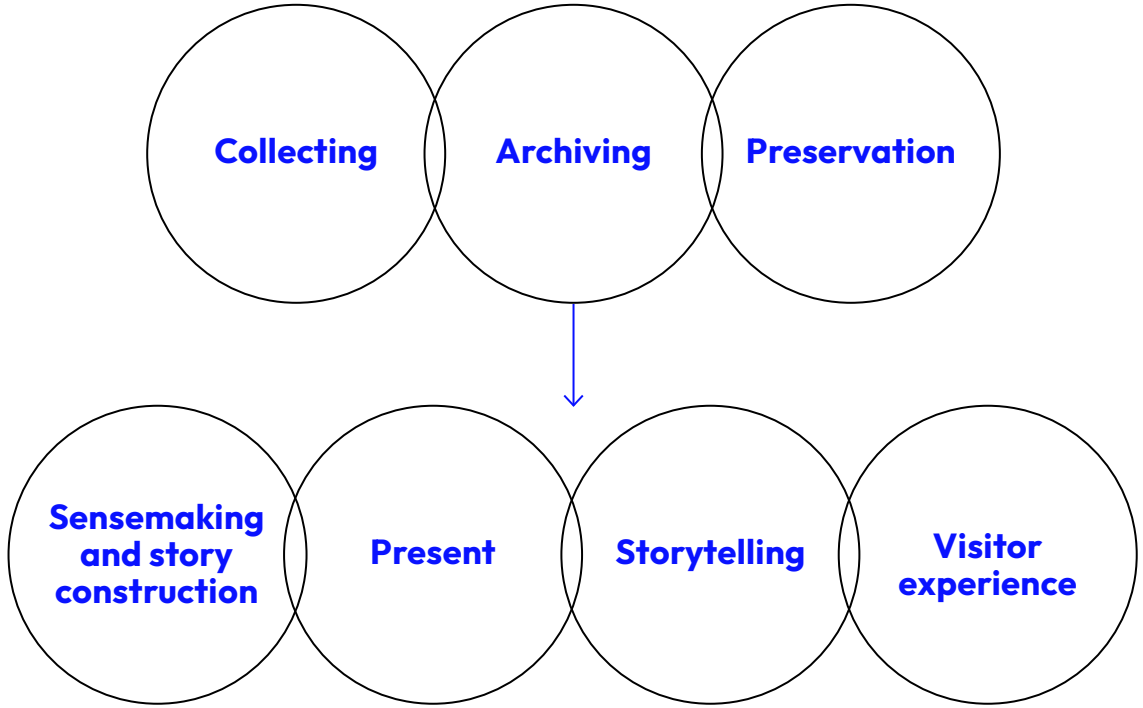
Why Data Curation?

The term curation finds its origin in museum practice. The various curation roles in a museum relate to two types of practices.

1. Identify
   Procure
   Manage

2. Select
   Organise
   Present



Just like the museum objects, data can also be collected, archived, preserved, interpreted and presented through stories.

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Data curation principles

Based on the literature we identified these data curation principles:

Visualise data as simply as possible.	Curate the data in a way that is as relevant to the audience as possible.	Use storytelling to frame the experiences with the data.	Start with a small part rather than the whole data set.
Provide examples and prompt ways to expand upon own interest.	Engage people with data they didn't collect and encourage them to collect their own data and add to it.	Provide support for how to ask good questions from data.	Combine creative with practical activities.

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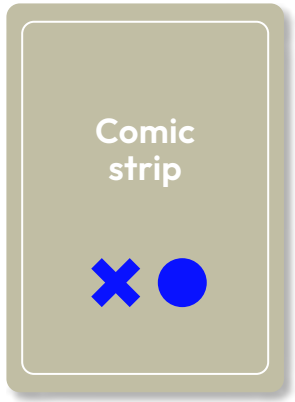
The Curator Cards

The data Curator Cards are intended **to convey data to a general audience** so that the experience is engaging, easy, and fun.

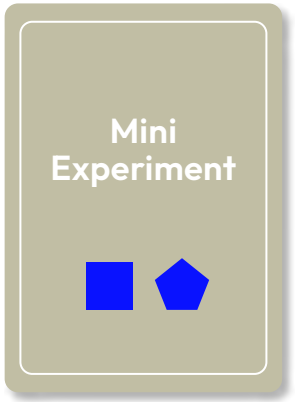
The approaches are:



Make a comic strip about the dataset.

Build a chronological timeline out of a dataset.

Start with one core ‘clue’ piece of data and curate data around it.



Conduct a mini experiment by collecting and analyzing data.

Make a news article out of datasets, possibly as a ‘reporter from the future’.

Have a Q&A with an ‘expert’ and invite audience questions.

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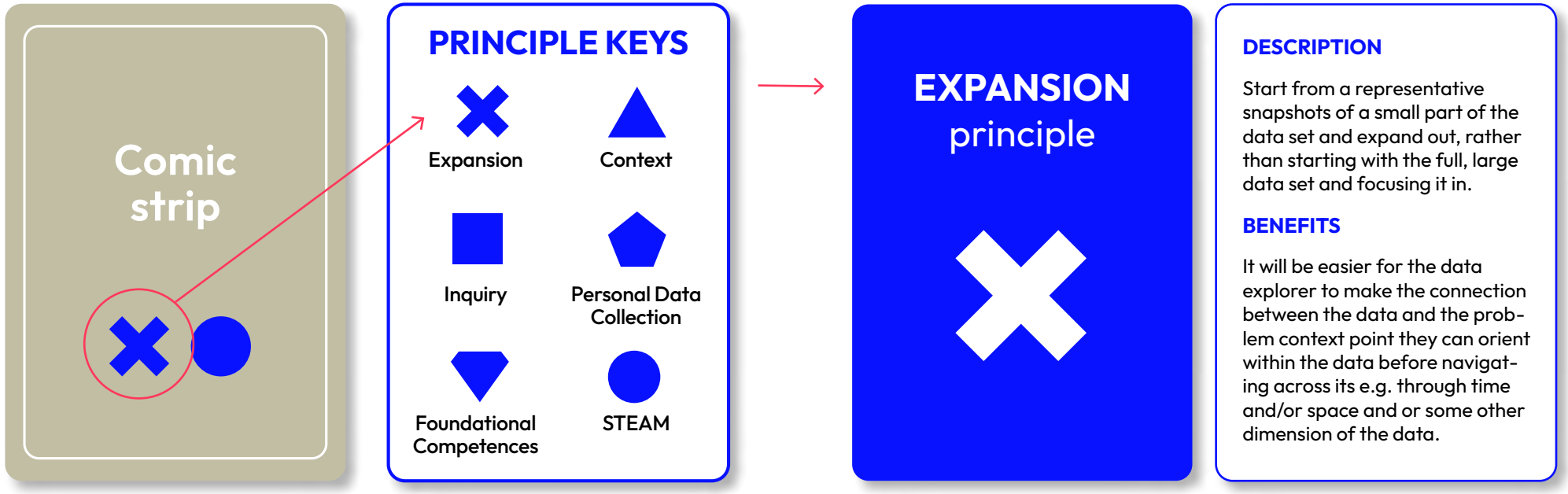
How to Use the Curator Cards?

Each Curator Card also relates to certain principles:



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Step by step

Step by step

Reflect on or discuss in small groups the data story that is being presented – consider the intended audience and media through which the story will be communicated.

→

Pick a Curator Card and brainstorm how that method can be applied to the data story and evaluate to what extent it is suitable.

→

Repeat for each card.

→

Brainstorm alternative approaches that do not appear on the Curator Cards.

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Find out more

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Other ParCos tools

Discover the other tools for participatory science communication developed within the ParCos project **here**.

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