

Editor's Note

A “Thousand Words” is a new essay feature of the CODATA Data Science Journal. Each of these essays is intended to paint a picture of a thousand words of a subject important to data scientists. It is opinion – not research, but nevertheless of interest and importance to understanding the fundamental role data science plays in today’s scientific research and development.

Our first essay – “Data Science as an Academic Discipline,” is appropriately contributed by the first editor of this journal – Professor F. Jack Smith of Queen’s University, Belfast. Trained as a physicist, Jack has been a leader in using the tools of data science – computational power, networking and modern telecommunication, data base management, and advanced analytical and algorithmic methods – in a wide variety of scientific disciplines. His essay traces the growth of the new data science into a mature academic research area.