

CLOSEOUT FOR M00050023

On April 22, 1999, a division director¹ consulted OIG about a data sharing dispute. The division had been contacted by the complainant,² a freelance writer, who alleged that the subject³ had refused to share data reported in the subject's NSF-supported book.⁴ OIG was subsequently contacted by the subject, the complainant, and a program officer in the division director's division about this dispute. The program officer, after consultation with NSF's Office of General Counsel, wrote to the subject concerning the availability of the subject's data. In his letter, the program officer noted that the subject, in his proposal to NSF, had promised to archive the data when he completed his work. The program officer asked the subject "what steps [the subject had] taken to fulfill this commitment." In his reply, the subject gave a detailed account of his data sharing practices, discussed his relations with the complainant, and renewed his commitment to archive the data when he completed his work with them.

OIG concluded that the subject had offered credible reasons for refusing to share data with the complainant and that, especially in the context of a commitment to archive his data in the future, his action could not be considered a serious deviation from accepted practices.

OIG concluded that NSF management had taken reasonable steps to encourage the subject to adhere to his own commitments and to act in accordance with agency policies. OIG concluded that there was no basis for OIG investigative activity concerning this matter.

This inquiry is closed and no further action will be taken on this case.

¹ Dr. [REDACTED], Director of the Division [REDACTED]

² Mr. [REDACTED]

³ Dr. [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED]

⁴ [REDACTED]
1996.