GETTING STARTED
WITH OPEN AND FAIR DATA
ON EMERALD OPEN RESEARCH

Open and FAIR Data Policy

“Open research data is research data that can be freely accessed, used, modified, and shared, provided that there is appropriate acknowledgement if required.” Concordat on Open Research Data, 2016

Data sharing or open data, a key principle of open science increasingly required by research funders, helps ensure transparency, reproducibility, and reusability of research data. Emerald Open Research endorses the FAIR Principles, alongside an Open Data policy, as a framework to promote the broadest reuse of research data.

Therefore, in order to submit your work to Emerald Open Research, you first need to have made available the data underlying your research, prior to submission. During submission, you will be required to provide details of where your data is hosted (excepting ethical, data protection or confidentiality considerations). Failure to provide data for publication without good justification may result in your article being rejected.

To help you with this process of sharing data, please see our data guidelines and additional information on preparing your data, choosing a repository, and sharing sensitive data here. This document partly uses the comprehensive guidance made available by the UK Data Service.

Benefits of Sharing Data

There are many good reasons to provide access to shared datasets behind your research work.

- Research articles with open data tend to be more highly cited (see article here)
- Enable research to be replicated and reused
- Reduce duplication of data collection and processing efforts as well as the cost associated with data gathering
- Increase the credibility of the findings
- Maximise transparency and accountability
- Enhance collaboration between data users and data creators
- Promote new research and encourage debate

Types of Data to Share

Social science data often originates from human participants and can include the following:

- Qualitative data (focus group or interview transcripts etc.)
- Commercial data (e.g. supermarket or market research data)
- Large scale quantitative survey data
- Geographical and geocoded data
- Government administrative records
- Aggregate political and socioeconomic indicators
- Derived datasets combining some or all of the above

A combination of gaining consent for sharing data, anonymising the data and regulating access to data will make your data more readily available and accessible. For guidance on ethics and consent issues, click here.
Data Management Planning

Well organised, well documented, preserved and shared data are invaluable to advance scientific inquiry and to increase opportunities for learning and innovation.

Data management covers all aspects of handling, organising, documenting and enhancing research data, and enabling their sustainability and sharing. Early planning of how best to manage research data, including data sharing, is best done using a data management plan, increasingly required by funders. There is a useful checklist for a well-executed data management plan available at: https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/plan/checklist.aspx

A template of a data management plan has also been provided by the EU research programme Horizon 2020 here.

There is also a useful tutorial video from the UK Data Service on how to write a data management plan here.

In addition, please contact your institution which may have tips and guidance on managing data and drafting data management plans.

You may also be interested in..

This is the first in a series of guides to help you comply with Emerald Open Research’s Open Data Policy.

We have also created a number of additional guides which will help you with the following:

- Prepare data
- Choose a repository
- Share sensitive data

You can access these guides here

Toolbox

We have gathered a number of useful resources to help you share your data.

- ESPA-UKDS guide to sharing social data in multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder research http://www.espa.ac.uk/files/espa/Sharing social data.pdf
- UK Data Service https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/
- SSHOC https://sshopencloud.eu/
- Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences https://www.bitss.org/