DATA SHARING

WHAT IS DATA SHARING?

Sharing your data makes it available to other researchers to re-use (collaborators, researchers in your discipline, researchers outside of your discipline, the general public, etc.). Data sharing is increasingly becoming mandated by institutions, funding agencies and publishers.

WHY IS DATA SHARING IMPORTANT?

- Increases research impact and citation rate
- Promotes collaboration
- Increases transparency and reproducibility of research
- May be mandated by funding agency or publisher

BEST PRACTICES

- Select data to share
  - You should share the data that supports all parts of your publications, including tables and figures
  - However, confidential data should not be shared
- Share data around the time of publication
  - Some funders and publishers require that the data is available prior to publication
- Apply a license to your data to facilitate re-use
  - Apply a Creative Commons license (creativecommons.org/licenses/) or an Open Data Commons license (opendatacommons.org/licenses/)
  - The license will tell other researchers how they can (and can't) re-use your data
- Before sharing, check intellectual property rights
  - Data itself is considered a fact and isn't subject to copyright
  - But an expression of the data (such as a table or figure) can be subject to copyright

Source: Data Management for Researchers by Kristin Briney
HOW TO SHARE YOUR DATA

There are several options for how to share your data. Here are four common options:

1. **Submit data as supplemental files to a publication** – Check the journal’s Author Guidelines to see if this is an option.
2. **Deposit it in a data repository** – A data repository makes your data publicly available online. **Most repositories give a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to the deposited dataset, which is a unique identifier that other researchers can use to cite your dataset.** Examples of data repositories:

   ![Repository Logos](https://example.com/repository-logos)

   **DRYAD**
   - Disciplines: Sciences & medicine
   - URL: dryad.org

   **ICPSR**
   - Disciplines: Social Sciences
   - URL: icpsr.umich.edu

   **UK DATA ARCHIVE**
   - Disciplines: Social sciences & humanities
   - URL: data-archive.ac.uk

   **figshare**
   - Disciplines: All disciplines
   - URL: figshare.com

   How to find a data repository for your data:
   - Registry of Research Data Repositories (re3data.org)
   - Simmons College list of data repositories by discipline (bit.ly/data_repositories)

3. **Publish it in a data journal** – As the name implies, a data journal publishes the actual data files along with a description of the dataset. Examples include *Scientific Data* (published by Nature) and *Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences* (see right).

4. **Personal website** – This option is not recommended due to the significant time commitment required to maintain the website.

SHARING CONFIDENTIAL DATA

According to OU Policy 860, confidential research data includes (but is not limited to) “information related to a forthcoming or pending patent application, grant applications and proposals, and information related to human subjects.” Confidential data should not be shared publicly. Deidentified confidential data possibly can be shared (in case of research data that contains human subject information).

OU LIBRARIES CAN HELP WITH DATA SHARING

Contact Joanna Thielen, Research Data Librarian, for assistance
jthielen@oakland.edu | 248-370-2477

Source: *Data Management for Researchers* by Kristin Briney