INSTITUTIONAL DATA REPOSITORIES

An Important Option for Complying with Data Sharing Requirements

AGU's Data Policy states that "Earth and space science data should be widely accessible in multiple formats and long-term preservation of data is an integral responsibility of scientists and sponsoring institutions." Researchers who intend to publish in AGU's journals will need to make the data underlying their findings readily accessible through a data repository.

AGU prefers researchers to use a domain repository, one that centers on your specific data type and focuses on your research community. But, what if your community does not yet have a domain repository, or it is not appropriate for your data for some reason? In that case, an institutional data repository may be an option.

WHAT IS AN INSTITUTIONAL DATA REPOSITORY?

Institutional Data Repositories (or Data IRs) are repositories developed by an academic library to support researchers affiliated with a specific institution to comply with funder or publisher data requirements. Academic libraries have long recognized the importance of ensuring long-term access to information, including research data. Investing in Data IRs is a natural extension of the mission of libraries.

WHAT SERVICES DO INSTITUTIONAL DATA REPOSITORIES PROVIDE?

Data IRs serve the needs of researchers from across the institution, and so they host a variety of different data formats and types. The services provided by Data IRs will naturally vary by institution; however, most Data IRs provide the following services:

- Providing a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or other globally unique, permanent and resolvable identifier so that your data is citable by others.
- Enabling your data to be widely discoverable by ensuring they are indexed by search engines such as Google.
- Providing a landing page for your data that includes descriptive metadata.
- Providing a means to link your data to the resulting paper.
- Staff to guide you in preparing and submitting your data to the Data IR.

Many Data IRs offer additional services such as embargos, support for data licenses, suggested citations for the data, monthly usage statistics, and more. Contact your institution's library to see if they provide a Data IR and request specific information about what services are provided.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF A DATA IR?

Cornell University's eCommons — ecommons.cornell.edu
Duke University's Research Data Repository — research.repository.duke.edu
Johns Hopkins University's Data Archive — archive.data.jhu.edu
New York University's Faculty Digital Archive — archive.nyu.edu
Penn State University's Scholar Sphere — scholarsphere.psu.edu
University of Illinois' Data Bank — databank.illinois.edu
University of Michigan's Deep Blue Data — deepblue.lib.umich.edu/data
University of Minnesota's DRUM — conservancy.umn.edu/drum
Virginia Tech University's VTech Data — data.lib.vt.edu
Washington University in St. Louis' Open Scholarship — openscholarship.wustl.edu

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I HAVE ACCESS TO A DATA IR?

Contact your institution's library. If your institution's library does provide a Data IR, a librarian can help guide you in preparing and submitting your data set. Be sure to include information about your data set such as its approximate size and the number of files it may contain.

If your institution's library does not provide a Data IR, a librarian may still be able to help you find a suitable repository for your data.

ADVANCING EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

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