

# Sharing Data

Many funders and publishers require or encourage researchers to share data (or to articulate why it cannot be shared).

**Sharing data also has benefits for you**—it can increase your citation count and demonstrates good, reproducible science.

The [U-M Research Data Stewardship Policy](#) also states that researchers “*should strive to **make Research Data publicly available when possible.***” Research data is “the recorded material commonly accepted in research communities as necessary or useful to validate, reconstruct, evaluate, replicate, and/or generate findings.”

## Ethical Considerations

- Does your data relate to education (FERPA), health (HIPAA), or another regulated field?
- Are there unintended consequences you can think of to sharing (or not sharing) your data?
- Do your data contain identifiers? (see <https://datadryad.org/docs/HumanSubjectsData.pdf>)

## Sharing data...

- ...is not done by stating it is “available upon request,” as this statement most often has minimal meaning in practice or over the longer term.
- ...is usually best done in a subject repository if available (for ease of discovery & specialized metadata), or in a generalist/institutional repository (such as [Deep Blue Data](#)) if not.
- ...can be public, or restricted if your data set includes sensitive information (such as patient data). You may also need to de-identify your data.

## A reliable repository should

- ★ Ensure long-term persistence and **preservation** of datasets in their published form (for a minimum of 5 years after publication).
- ★ Provide **stable persistent identifiers** for submitted datasets (e.g., DOIs).
- ★ Allow **public access** to data without barriers, such as logins or paywalls, unless restrictions are required (i.e., for sensitive datasets).
- ★ Support **open licenses** (usually CC0 and CC-BY or their equivalents).

## Resources

U-M Library: Share and Preserve Your Data

<https://www.lib.umich.edu/research-and-scholarship/data-services/share-and-preserve-your-data>

Workshop Recording & Slides: Help! I Have To Share My Data: Preparation For Sharing and Choosing a Repository For Long-Term Data Storage

<https://guides.lib.umich.edu/datamanagement/workshops>

Request a consultation

[researchdataservices@umich.edu](mailto:researchdataservices@umich.edu) or [THLResearchDataCore@umich.edu](mailto:THLResearchDataCore@umich.edu) (Health Sciences)