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.”

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).

**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)

**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 or THLResearchDataCore@umich.edu (Health Sciences)