

Meeting funder expectations on data sharing
in Arts and Social Science

Data Access Statements

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University of Bristol

Research Data Service

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DATA ACCESS STATEMENTS

Many funding bodies now require grant holders to provide a ‘Data Access Statement’ in each of their published articles. These should tell readers how they can access sufficient underlying data to evidence the published claims (or alternatively, why readers cannot access evidence). The nature of these statements will vary depending on where your data is. Please note: a simple direction to interested parties to ‘contact the author’ is no longer considered sufficient. The remainder of this document provides examples of acceptable Data Access Statements for the following situations:

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UNDERLYING DATA PUBLISHED AS SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL



Underlying data can be published in a variety of ways depending on the conventions of your field and the journal in which you are publishing your article. In this example, the authors have included some tabular data and graphs, but the full experimental details required to validate the study's findings are too long to be included in this way.

As the publisher allows extensive supplementary information to accompany an article, the authors have therefore deposited this supporting data as a supplement. They have noted this within the body of their article and therefore fulfilled funder expectations.

Data access statement

"...these pilot data can be found in supplementary materials."ⁱ

UNDERLYING DATA PUBLISHED IN AN EXTERNAL DATA REPOSITORY



If your publisher is unable to host your data, a suitable external repository may be able to provide this service; these are usually discipline-specific and free of charge.

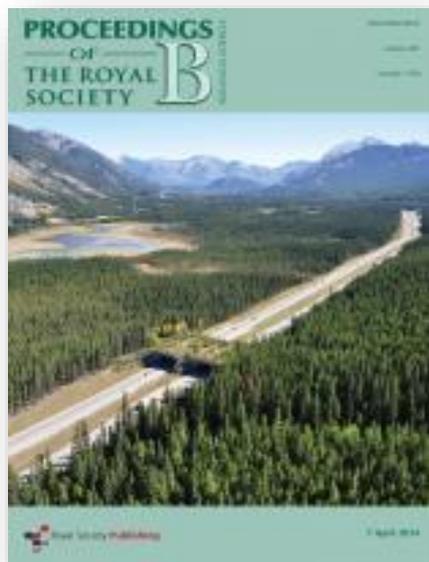
In this example, the authors have conducted a survey but the results are too complex to be included as a supplement or within the article itself. They have therefore deposited their data at the UK Data Archive (run by the UK Data Service). This is an online repository for social, economic and population data, funded by ESRC.

The UK Data Archive has provided the authors with an accession number for their data that has been cited in the body of their paper to satisfy funder expectations.

Data access statement

“The research materials described in this article have been deposited with the UK Data Service (SN 851404)”ⁱⁱ

UNDERLYING DATA PUBLISHED IN THE DATA.BRIS REPOSITORY



If there are no suitable external repositories, you can deposit your data in the University of Bristol's data repository, data.bris. In the following example, the authors have included some chromatograms and other images within the text of the article, but the full set of scans underpinning their conclusions is too long to be included in this way.

The authors have therefore deposited the full set of gas chromatography and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry results in the data.bris repository as two separate datasets and have been issued with a DOI for each. These are cited in the body of their article in order to meet funder expectations.

Data access statement

"Data accessibility: Archaeological GC and GC/MS data: Bristol University Research Data Repository (doi:10.5523/bris.13kidnrls4jnl1m806eyfd8h6z). Archaeological single compound stable isotope data: Bristol University Research Data Repository (doi:10.5523/bris.upjtf9os1dzt154phmgvrupib)."ⁱⁱⁱ

UNDERLYING DATA PUBLISHED AS A RESTRICTED ACCESS DATASET



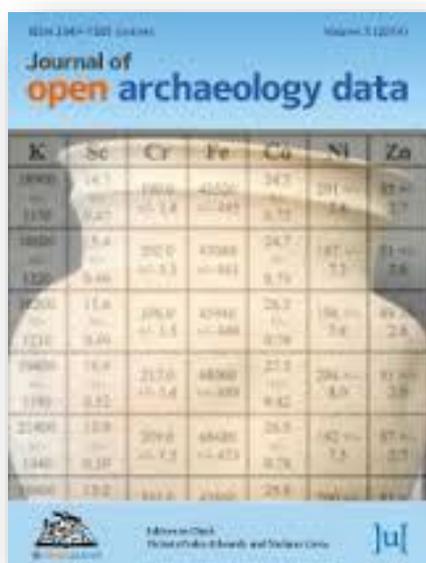
If your dataset contains information which cannot be shared openly for ethical or commercial reasons, you can still deposit it in a repository – you can apply restrictions on who can access the data and for what purpose. An embargo can also be applied if temporary access restrictions are required.

In the following example, the authors have not obtained consent to openly share data from the research participants, so have deposited their data in data.bris as a restricted dataset. The authors have chosen to give a full explanation of what this entails in their data access statement, but this level of detail is not required to satisfy funder expectations – a simple statement that the data is available to bona fide researchers subject to a data access agreement will suffice.

Data access statement

“At the time this study was performed, participants consented to the data of this study being used to promote scientific knowledge and for no other purpose than research. Therefore, completely open access of the data would contravene consent and ethics approval. However, for bona fide researchers, the fully anonymized dataset (as tab separated value files (.tsv files) for the 3D-motion capture QTM data, and as Matlab (.mat) files for the corresponding floor projection parameters) has been deposited at the University of Bristol Research Data Repository (<http://data.bris.ac.uk/data/dataset/7zl3gh7ipvm51hbg4zdndqrv>). A metadata record is openly available by the repository, with a link (email) to the Research Data team at Bristol who provide information how data can be accessed by bona fide researchers, and who will assess the motives of potential data reusers before granting access to the data. No authentic request for access will be refused and reusers will not be charged for any part of this process.”^{iv}

UNDERLYING DATA PUBLISHED AS A SEPARATE ‘DATA PAPER’



The image shows the cover of the Journal of Open Archaeology Data, Volume 4, Issue 1, 2015. The cover features a grid of data points and the journal title. The data points are arranged in a grid with columns labeled K, Sc, Cr, Fe, Cu, Ni, and Zn. The rows represent different data points, with values ranging from 0.000 to 21.400. The journal title is 'Journal of open archaeology data' and the publisher is 'University of Bristol, Faculty of Health, Education and Society Centre'. The logo of the University of Bristol is also visible.

	K	Sc	Cr	Fe	Cu	Ni	Zn
0000	14.7	1800	4220	24.7	191	84	87.8
1130	0.27	25.14	244	8.71	8.8	7.7	
1820	5.4	2020	4388	24.7	187	7.7	71.8
1220	0.46	11.13	141	8.75	7.7	7.8	
1230	11.8	2060	4398	25.2	186	7.8	69.2
1210	0.49	11.13	141	8.78	7.8	7.8	2.8
1980	16.4	2170	4880	27.1	204	8.0	87.8
1190	0.22	11.14	141	8.82	7.8	7.8	3.8
21400	10.8	2090	4840	26.5	192	7.8	87.8
1140	0.10	11.13	141	8.75	7.8	7.8	2.7
1980	18.2	2170	4880	28.8	204	8.0	87.8

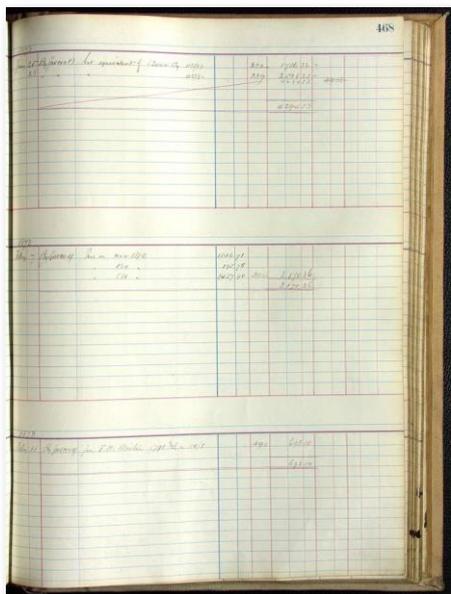
As well as publishing your data in a repository you may choose to write a separate paper describing the deposit in detail, known as a data paper. You should consider publishing a data paper if your dataset has high potential for re-use. You can find more information on writing a data paper at <https://data.bris.ac.uk/sharingdata/>.

In this example of a data paper, the contents of the dataset are described (photographs, metadata and a derived 3D polygonal mesh) and the location of the repository is given, including a unique, persistent DOI. If you choose to take this approach, in order to meet funder expectations you can cite your data paper rather than your data deposit when writing up your findings for publication.

Data access statement

This example would be cited as Gray, S., (2015). UAV Survey Data from Clifton Camp (ST56557330), Bristol, UK. Journal of Open Archaeology Data. 4, p.e3. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/joad.ah.v>

UNDERLYING PHYSICAL DATA



Physical data, such as information taken from original documents, ledgers, archival material, etc. which has no digital presence can still be cited as part of a data access statement. Although you may not be able to provide a persistent identifier to an online publication, it is still possible to provide the necessary information (Data Creator, Year, Title, Publisher, Location) that would be found in a statement citing digital data. Each dataset would require its own separate citation.

You can find more information on this subject from the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) at

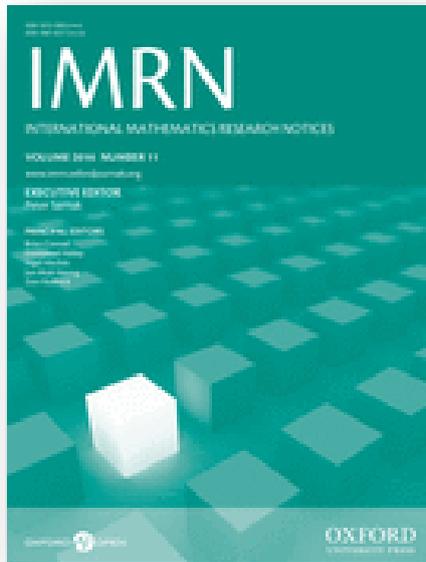
<https://www.dcc.ac.uk/guidance/how-guides/cite-datasets#sec:physical>

In this invented example of a physical data citation, based on transcriptions of a parish register made from original archival records, the contents of the dataset are described and the location of the repository is given, including a unique reference number.

Data access statement

This invented example would be cited as Warren, C. (2019): Transcription of Marriage Entries from Buckfastleigh Parish Registers: Marriages, 1780-1812 (3639A/PR/1/8), held at Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter, Devon.

A STUDY WITH NO UNDERLYING DATA



Finally, some papers will not have any underlying data at all; in this example, the authors describe a series of mathematical theorems and proofs. All the information required to verify their findings is included within the paper, and therefore there is no underlying ‘data’ as such.

The authors have simply stated this in the acknowledgements section and fully satisfied the funding body’s expectation on research data management.

Data access statement

“No data were created during this study.”^{vi}

FURTHER INFORMATION

For help structuring your data access statement, or if your data does not fit into any of these categories (for example if you have used data from a third party, or are otherwise unable to share your data) please contact the Research Data Service (data-bris@bristol.ac.uk).

ⁱ Example taken from: D. Hall et al. “The Developmental Influence of Primary Memory Capacity on Working Memory and Academic Achievement”. *Developmental Psychology*. 2015, 51(8):1131–1147. doi:10.1037/a0039464

ⁱⁱ Example taken from: Fahmy et al. “Are We All Agreed? Consensual Methods and the ‘Necessities of Life’ in the UK Today”. *Journal of Social Policy*. 2015, 44(3): 591-610. doi:10.1017/S0047279415000033

ⁱⁱⁱ Example taken from: Cramp et al. “Immediate replacement of fishing with dairying by the earliest farmers of the northeast Atlantic archipelagos” *Proc. R. Soc. B*. 2014, **281**: 20132372; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2013.2372

^{iv} Example taken from: J. Fennell et al. “How visual perceptual grouping influences foot placement”. *Royal Society Open Science*. 2015;2(7):150151. doi:10.1098/rsos.150151

^v Example taken from: Gray, S., (2015). UAV Survey Data from Clifton Camp (ST56557330), Bristol, UK. *Journal of Open Archaeology Data*. 4, p.e3. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/joad.ah>

^{vi} Example taken from: M. R. Atkin et al. “Random Matrix Ensembles with Singularities and a Hierarchy of Painleve III Equations”. *International Mathematics Research Notices*, 2016, 2016 (8), pp 2320–2375. doi:10.1093/imrn/rnv195