

How to choose a Data Repository?

Data Repositories (DRs) are large database infrastructures that gather, organize, manage, preserve and make datasets available for research. In this issue we describe the repository types, where you can find them and things you should consider when choosing a DR either to deposit or to find data for reuse.

TYPES & EXAMPLES

General



Includes multidisciplinary data from various fields



Domain-specific



Focuses on a particular discipline or topic area



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10 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A DATA REPOSITORY

Does the Repository...

1. Have been recommended by your institution, publishers and/or funding agencies?
2. Assign persistent and unique identifiers to datasets?
3. Provide a landing page for datasets, with metadata that helps others find data, makes it understandable, visible, and promotes the reuse of the data?
4. Track how the data have been used by providing access and download statistics?
5. Follow a sustainable model and is certified as trustworthy, with an explicit commitment to preserve and make data available for the long term?
6. Have capabilities and follow standards that match your particular data needs (e.g. formats accepted, metadata standards, size capacity)?
7. Offer clear terms and conditions that meet legal requirements (e.g. data protection and restrictions) and allow reuse without unnecessary licensing conditions?
8. Provide guidance on how to cite the data that has been deposited?
9. Offer curation services and review data and documentation prior to data publication?
10. Charge for its services?

Still unsure? Contact us: rds@library.ucsb.edu

We can assist you finding and selecting the most appropriate data repository for your research.