

# Crafting Effective Data Availability Statements

Many scientific journals require authors to provide a data availability statement (DAS) to adhere to openness and transparency principles. The DAS specifies how and where the underlying data used in a study can be accessed and the terms under which they can be obtained. We cover best practices for writing such statements in compliance with policy requirements.



## When writing a DAS:

- ✓ Check for specific journal guidelines for acceptable data sharing methods
- ✓ Indicate if the publication generated or analyzed new data
- ✓ Make generated data available through a data repository whenever possible
- ✓ Ensure compliance with funder, publisher, and institutional policies (e.g., IRB)
- ✓ Specify where resources are located, preferably with DOIs
- ✓ Attribute and provide access to public source datasets and derivatives
- ✓ Explain any access restrictions (ethical, legal, or commercial)
- ✓ Honor data requests and clearly specify any criteria for acquiring restricted data
- ✓ Offer accessible contact points for requests and inquiries about data sources

## Examples of DAS for specific scenarios:\*

<p><b>Theoretical Research (no data)</b></p>	<p>Data sharing does not apply to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed for this study.</p>	<p><b>Shared as Supplementary Files</b></p>	<p>The data supporting this study's findings are available as supplementary materials [cross-link to files].</p>
<p><b>Openly Available</b></p>	<p>The data supporting this study's findings are openly available in [repository name] at [URL/DOI], [reference number].</p>	<p><b>Subject to Embargo Period**</b></p>	<p>The data supporting the findings will be available in [repository name] at [URL/DOI link] following an [n years/months] embargo period from the publication date to protect the researcher's intellectual property rights.</p>
<p><b>Derived from Public Sources</b></p>	<p>The data that support this study's findings are available in [repository name] at [URL/DOI], [reference number]. Data is derived from the following resources available in the public domain. List of resources and citations.</p>	<p><b>Restricted Data</b></p>	<p>Due to privacy or ethical restrictions, the data supporting this study's findings are available upon reasonable request [corresponding author] and [IRB/ Institutional Body contact info].</p>
<p><b>Data User Agreement Required</b></p>	<p>The data that support this study's findings are available in [repository name] at [URL/DOI], [reference number]. Access and reuse is conditional to a Data User Agreement (DUA).</p>	<p><b>Third Party Restricted Data**</b></p>	<p>The study's supporting data can be accessed and acquired through [third party/vendor], subject to restrictions. Data requests can be made to [URL/contact info].</p>
<p><b>Non-digital Data</b></p>	<p>Non-digital data supporting this study are curated at [facility/archive location]. Data requests can be made via [contact info].</p>	<p><b>Not Shared (Highly Sensitive/No Consent)</b></p>	<p>The study participants did not give written consent for their data to be shared publicly, so supporting data is unavailable due to the research's sensitive nature. [IRB/ Institutional Body contact info]</p>

\*Depending on the data source types used in your research, you may include one or more of these declarations.

\*\*Some journals may consider these data availability restrictions unacceptable and refrain from publishing the associated manuscript. For example, [PLOS ONE](#) won't accept embargoes based on personal interests, such as patents or potential future publications. Also unacceptable are those submissions based solely on the analysis of proprietary data unless it is confirmed that others can access the dataset the same way the authors obtained them.

**DON'T FORGET!**

Include citations for datasets you have used or produced in the reference list. Need help with that? Check out our [Data Citation in a Nutshell](#) handout or contact us at [rds@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:rds@library.ucsb.edu)