Sharing Your Data

Why Share Your Data?

- Preserves your research for the long term.
- Enables you to share data with other interested researchers.
- Enables you to use data shared by other researchers.
- Provides wider visibility for your research.
- Many funding agencies and scholarly journals now request that data be placed in a public archive and made available to others.
- Supports the transparency of quantitative research from a secondary analysis perspective.

Here are some points to consider for managing your data for the long term. Usually this means depositing your datasets and documentation with a recommended archive:

- Does my funding agency require that my research data be managed for the long term? Are you also required to share this data with others? Does the nature of the data permit sharing in such a way that the privacy and confidentiality of human respondents is preserved? An archive can advise you and can assist in ensuring that your data are managed according to best practices and standards.

- How long does my data need to be available for others to use? Will changes in operating systems of software or computing equipment affect the ability to re-use my data? The longer your data need to be usable, the more you should consider an archive that will ensure that this is possible.

- Do I want to manage my data on my own or would I prefer to use the services of a recognized archival organization? In the social sciences, a recognized archive will typically operate using techniques and tools approved through the Data Seal of Approval, or through Trusted Repository Audit Certification

If you decide that the best way for your data to be managed is to work with a data archive, there are a number of options for selecting an archive for your research data.

CC BY NC SA

UCLA Social Science Data Archive

The Social Science Data Archives serves the UCLA campus as an archive of faculty and graduate student survey research. We provide long term storage of data files and documentation. We ensure that the data are useable in the future by migrating files to new operating systems. We follow government standards and archival best practices. If you are interested in depositing data or if you have questions on creating publicly accessible data and documentation, please contact the Archive.

Our Services:

Data Management:

- Advise on best practices for managing a variety of data formats.
- Guidance on preparing publicly available data files.
- Guidance on how to construct codebooks and study documentation.
- Prepare data for online analysis with SDA.
- Preparation of detailed metadata using DDI standard.
- Assist in preparing data management plans associated with grant proposals.
- Guidance in budgeting for archival tasks in grant proposals.

Preservation and Access:

- Provide long term preservation and curation of data files and documentation.
- Guidance on depositing data at other archives.
- Guidance on how to deposit publications and associated data into open access archives.
- Maintain publications in open access archives, such as eScholarship.

Data Security:

- Assist in developing data protection plans.
- Assist in preparing human subjects review documents.
- Assist in preparing applications for restricted use data.
- Guidance on preparing data to remove direct and indirect identifiers.

Sharing Data at ICPSR

ICPSR or the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research is a member based organization providing access to a wide range of resources useful in social science research. ICPSR has as one of its main functions the goal of providing a long term home for data collected by researchers. "ICPSR has a long track record for preserving social science research data, and employs archival policies and practices, in accordance with prevailing standards and practices of the digital preservation community." The Social Science Data Archive staff will assist researchers to deposit data with ICPSR, including preparation of documentation, metadata, and formatting and organization of datasets.

Here are some key links to resources at ICPSR:

- Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving
- ICPSR Guidelines for Depositing Data
- Data Management Plans
- Preserving Respondent Privacy and Confidentiality
- Digital Curation

Sharing Data at Dataverse

Dataverse is an "open-source application for publishing, citing and discovering research data." Researchers may be interested in using Dataverse to manage their projects. This can include storage of datasets, online analysis tools, and links to publications. It is possible to limit access to data to just the researcher and members of her project. Setting up a specific Dataverse is free and open to anyone who would like to use it. It is a DIY option for researchers who want short or long term management of their data. The Social Science Data Archive will assist researchers in preparing materials for Dataverse. Click these links for more information on Dataverse or the Social Science Data Archive instance of Dataverse.