Data Management Plans

What is a data management plan?

A data management plan is a document that describes how data will be acquired and used within a research project. This includes how data will be collected, managed, stored and made available during the study, and how it will be shared after the project is completed. Several templates are available that can be used as the basis for a data management plan.

When do you need a data management plan?

Increasingly, funders will require you to submit a data management plan when you apply for a grant. This means you will have to describe your plans for research data management during the research project. This will be reviewed together with the rest of your application. However, even if you are not required to submit a data management plan, it is a good idea to think about your research data and research data management before starting an experimentso that you can better organize your research and save yourself time and extra effort later on.

Why is research data management important?

Research data is an important outcome of scientific research. Good data management will allow both you and other researchers to get the most out of your research data. If the data is well-structured and all the relevant information about the data is present, it is easy to go back to the data at a later point in time for additional analyses. This way, more research can be done with each dataset.

Find out more

Watch the DTLS and Elsevier online lecture: How to create a good RDM plan

A 30 minute presentation by Dr Rob W.W. Hooft, Manager of ELIXIR-NL at the Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences.

www.researcheracademy.com

Go to **Research Preparation** and select **Data management**.

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What are the FAIR principles?

The FAIR principles describe four key concepts in research data management. Data should be:

- **Findable** – Easy to find by both humans and computer systems and based on mandatory description of the metadata that allows the discovery of interesting datasets;
- **Accessible** – Long term storage so data can be easily accessed and/or downloaded with well-defined license and access conditions, whether at the level of metadata, or at the level of the actual data content;
- **Interoperable** – Ready to be combined with other datasets by humans, as well as computer systems;
- **Reusable** – Ready to be used for future research and to be processed further using computational methods.

Research Data Management according to the FAIR principles