

6 great reasons you should engage with research data management

Thanks to the growing number of research data mandates and policies, research data management (RDM) has become a pressing issue for institutions and their researchers. But good RDM takes time and can easily end up slipping to the bottom of the to do list. Together with library and data experts who participated in a recent [Elsevier webinar series on RDM](#), we explore why ignoring RDM is no longer an option.

1. The responsibility lies with you, not your institution!

Many of these funder, government and publisher requirements place the onus for compliance on you as the researcher.

2. It can help to raise the profile and impact of your research.

When research data is deposited in an open repository with robust metadata and a DOI, it's easy for others to find, reuse and cite.



Paul Vierkant,
Outreach
Manager at DataCite

“We should refrain from framing metadata as a dry topic and show researchers what’s in it for them! Focus on the academic search engine optimization. Tell them that there is higher visibility for their research, possibly resulting in higher impact.”

3. Crucially, it can also boost your institution’s reputation and funding.

National assessment and funding initiatives, such as the UK’s Research Excellence Framework (REF), have indicated they want to see more and higher quality open research data that aligns with the FAIR principles, (i.e., data that is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable).

4. Failing to comply with mandates could jeopardize future funding opportunities.

Many funder and institutional policies now require researchers to write data management and sharing (DMS) plans and openly share their research data. In one study, 50 percent of the non-commercial funders surveyed said that reviewing DMS plans was part of their decision-making process. And they confirmed that non-compliance could lead to a suspension of the grant or refusal of a future grant application.* Where it’s not possible to share data (e.g., for privacy reasons), you should clearly explain the restrictions in a data availability statement.

5. It can help you progress up the career ladder.

More and more institutions are considering how they can incorporate open science contributions – including open sharing of data and alignment with the FAIR principles – in recruitment, promotion and tenure processes.



Bill Ayres, Strategic Lead for Research Data Management at the University of Manchester Library, UK

“We want to move towards open science and open data being more of a factor in reward and career progression... but first we have to be able to see that it exists and how it’s happening.”

6. Because it’s not only FAIR – it’s fair...

While preparing datasets for publication can be time-consuming, it does ensure that others in the field can build on your findings and fulfil the goal of every researcher – to advance science. And if you want to benefit from datasets prepared by your peers, you need to be willing to return the favor.

At Elsevier, we've got the tools and services to support your RDM journey

Below, you'll find information on just some of them; for example, we can help you:

Publish and store your research data

Mendeley Data

This certified, free-to-use repository hosts all forms of open data from multiple disciplines. Your data receives a DOI, making it independently citable, and it can be linked to any associated article on ScienceDirect so it's easy for readers to find and reuse.

[Find out more about Mendeley Data](#)

Digital Commons Data

This institutional data repository not only enables you to create discoverable datasets and add a DOI so others can cite them, you can also leverage powerful versioning capabilities, control access to your data, and collaborate securely.

[Find out more about Digital Commons Data](#)

Data articles

Several Elsevier journals welcome data articles, including this dedicated title [Data in Brief](#). Data articles are easy to submit, peer-reviewed and receive a DOI so they are fully citable. The accompanying raw data can be placed in a repository of your choice.

[Find out more about publishing a research elements article](#)

Manage your research data

Data Monitor

Data Monitor draws on millions of research data records stored in 2,000+ repositories. This enables your library/research office to locate your research data and access the metadata. Using Data Monitor's integration options, they can transfer this information to your institutional repository or RIMS on your behalf, leaving you free to focus on other important tasks.

[Find out more about Data Monitor](#)

Pure - automate data capture

Elsevier's RIMS Pure can automatically import dataset metadata from both Digital Commons Data and Data Monitor and link them to specific people, organizational units, publications and other research entities, so you don't have to do it manually.

[Find out more about Pure](#)

Showcase your research data

Pure – highlight achievements

When your research is imported to Pure's public portal, it's instantly and globally discoverable and is linked to your Pure researcher profile for others to see.

[Find out more about Pure](#)

3 ways to maximize the impact of your article data on ScienceDirect.

- Link your research article with data in a repository. If you've published a data article, you can link to that too.

[Find out more about linking data](#)

- Enrich with interactive data visualizations giving readers better insights.

[Find out more about data visualizations](#)

- Cite your research data in your research article and add a data reference to the reference list.