

Best practice in research data publication

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Fachinformationsdienst
Geowissenschaften der festen Erde

Take home messages

- **Use a domain data repository**
(don't publish data as supplemental material to a journal article on the publishers website)
- **Whenever possible, use an open licence**
- **Describe your data properly**
- **Provide links to DOIs of related research products**
(journal articles, data publications, software, samples, ...)
- **Cite data publications in your journal articles**
(use DOI, place citation in the reference list)
- **Publish software along with the source code**

Topics addressed

1. [Politics, funders, publisher views](#)
2. [FAIR data principles](#)
3. [Concerns ...and considerations](#)
4. [Repositories](#)
5. [Data description and connection to journal article](#)
6. [Licenses](#)
7. [Open data metrics](#)



1. Politics, funders, publisher views

Politics and funders ask for data sharing



G7 Science and Technology
Ministers' Meeting

...promoting increasing access to [...] scientific data and publications,...



“...open access is the default setting for research data generated in Horizon 2020.”

DFG

...research data should be made available as soon as possible.

G7 Science and Technology Ministers 2016: [Tsukuba Communiqué](#)

EU 2016: [Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020](#)

DFG 2015: [Leitlinien zum Umgang mit Forschungsdaten](#)



Politics and funders ask for data sharing



Update 2019: Code of Conduct "[Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice](#)"

- describe results clearly and in full
- making the research data, materials and information on which the results are based, as well as the methods and software used, available and fully explaining the work processes.
- Software is made publicly available along with the source code
- Make available in recognised archives and repositories in accordance with the FAIR principles

DFG 2019: Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice

https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/good_scientific_practice/index.html



Publishers ask for data availability

Supporting **data must be made available** to editors and peer reviewers at the time of submission for the purposes of evaluating the manuscript. All manuscripts reporting original research published in Nature journals must include a data availability statement ...



nature
International journal of science

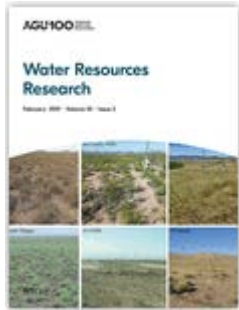
After publication, **all data and materials** necessary to understand, assess, and extend the conclusions of the manuscript **must be available** to any reader of a *Science* Journal.



Science

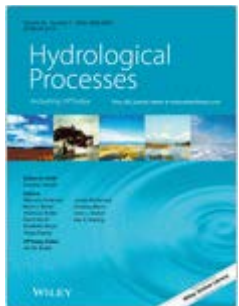
<https://www.nature.com/authors/policies/availability.html>
<http://www.sciencemag.org/authors/science-journals-editorial-policies>

Publishers ask for data availability



AGU Data Policy

AGU **encourages authors to identify and archive their data** in approved data centers.



Author Guidelines

If data, scripts, or other artefacts used to generate the analyses presented in the paper **are available** via a publicly available data repository, authors should **include a reference** to the location of the material within their paper.

<https://publications.agu.org/author-resource-center/publication-policies/data-policy/>
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/10991085/homepage/forauthors.html#preparingsubmissions>



2. FAIR data principles

FAIR data Guiding Principles

Data should be **F**indable

- globally unique and eternally persistent identifier

Data should be **A**ccessible

- standardized communications protocol

Data should be **I**nteroperable

- machine readable

Data should be **R**e-usable

- rich and accurate metadata, licence



Enabling Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable Data

in the earth, space, and environmental science



Researchers understand and follow expectations related to data management and metadata of the publication

Scientific repositories are valued for stewardship, data access, improving peer review and digital product quality

Publishers set standards and follow best practice related to datasets, metadata, accepted repositories and data citation

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[More details on the project...](#)

Researchers understand and follow expectations related to data management and metadata of the publication

[Read what researchers are expected to do...](#)

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3. Concerns ...and considerations

Concerns...

Lack of time to curate data

Data are only useful if they are understandable, adequate documentation is time-consuming.



Personal investment

Data collection takes time and trouble, other researcher are conceived as freeloaders.

Scooping

Fear of competition and resulting reduced publication opportunities.

Errors

Fear that errors being found in the data.

...and considerations

There are huge benefits to data-sharing, which outweigh the time costs. Shared data can be used for studies that go beyond the original work, with particular benefits when there is pooling of datasets.

And another point, often overlooked, is that uncurated data often become unusable by the original researcher, let alone other scientists, if it is not documented properly and stored on a safe digital site.

Data sharing is also beneficial for reproducibility: researchers will check data more carefully when it is to be shared.

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...and considerations

Why should others benefit when you have done all the hard work? In fact, when we consider that scientists are usually receiving public money to make scientific discoveries, this line of argument does not appear morally defensible.

But in any case, it is not true that the scientists who do the sharing have no benefits. For a start, they will see an increase in citations, as others use their data.

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Concerns about being scooped are frequently cited, but are seldom justified. Indeed, if we move to a situation where a dataset is a publication with its own identifier, then the original researcher will get credit every time someone else uses the dataset.

Data can be embargoed for a certain time, or only part of the data is published: at least the part that was used to support the conclusion that were made in a journal article.

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...and considerations

Of course there will be errors – there always are. We have to change our culture so that we do not regard it as a source of shame to publish data in which there are errors, but rather as an inevitability that is best dealt with by making the data public so the errors can be tracked down.



4. Repositories

Repositories

Repository = (online accessible) database for the recording and publication of research data, texts and other digital objects¹



A **demonstration of searching** for research data repositories using the Re3data directory



<https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/content/re3data-demo>

Find data repositories in the **earth and space sciences domain** that

- support open access
- provide persistent identifiers
- accept data for deposit

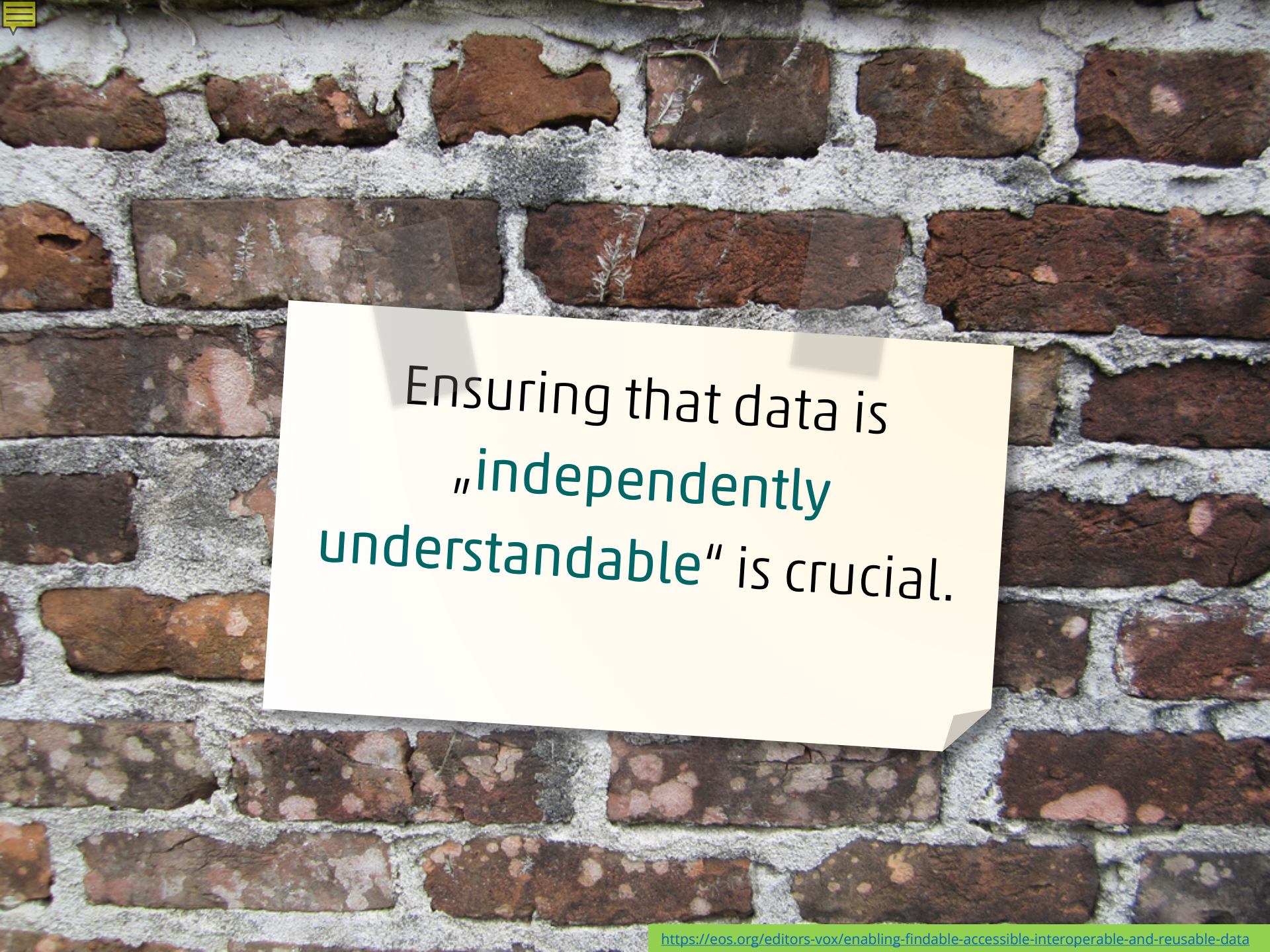


<https://repositoryfinder.datacite.org/>

¹ Einstieg ins Forschungsdatenmanagement in den Geowissenschaften, <https://doi.org/10.2312/lis.14.01>



5. Data description and connection to journal article



Ensuring that data is
„independently
understandable“ is crucial.

Description of data





Peer-reviewed articles with the **description** of datasets, data collections, data infrastructures, etc.


No data interpretation!

SCIENTIFIC DATA

Data publication example

 **Supplement to: Monitoring snow depth by GNSS reflectometry in built-up areas: A case study for Wetzell, Germany**  Released

Cite as:
Vey, Sibylle; Guntner, Andreas; Wickert, Jens; Blume, Theresa; Thoss, Heiko; Ramatschi, Markus (2016): Supplement to: Monitoring snow depth by GNSS reflectometry in built-up areas: A case study for Wetzell, Germany. GFZ Data Services. <http://doi.org/10.5880/GFZ.1.1.2016.001> Copy citation to clipboard

Data Files 

[Vey-et-al-2016-US_2012_15.txt](#) 44122 Bytes
[Vey-et-al-2016-GNSS_2012_15.txt](#) 4449 Bytes
License: CC BY 4.0

Abstract

We provide data of a case study from the GNSS station Wetzell, Germany (WTZR). This data set contains snow depth derived from GNSS data using reflectometry. It covers a time period from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2015 and gives the integral snow depth over an area of about 150 by 30 m. The data are daily averages based on daily measurements from 4 different satellites. The GNSS derived snow depth was validated by observations from ultrasonic sensors (US). The detailed description of the processing, the evaluation with US and the discussion of the results is described in Vey et al. (2016). The data are provided in ASCII format with four columns:

GNSS data (file [Vey-et-al-2016-GNSS_2012_15.txt](#)): (1) year (YEAR) (2) day of the year (DOY) (3) snow depth (SD cm) from GNSS (4) accuracy, root mean square error (RMSE cm)

Ultrasonic Sensor data (file [Vey-et-al-2016-US_2012_15.txt](#)): (1) year (YEAR) (2) day of the year (DOY) (3) SD_US_pillow (cm) snow depth from the US sensor located above snow pillow (4) SD_US_SPA(cm) snow depth from the US sensor located at the snow pack analyzer

Dataset Contact

Vey, Sibylle; GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Potsdam, Germany; [vey\(_at_\)gfz-potsdam.de](mailto:vey(_at_)gfz-potsdam.de)

Keywords

Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), reflectometry, remote sensing, snow depth

GCMD Science Keywords


EARTH SCIENCE > CLIMATE INDICATORS > CRYOSPHERIC INDICATORS > SNOW DEPTH

More Metadata

iso19115: [view inline](#) / [download xml](#)
datacite: [view inline](#) / [download xml](#)
dif: [view inline](#) / [download xml](#)
escidoc: [view inline](#) / [download xml](#)

Location

Click/hover over markers or bounding boxes to see related details. Click/hover over details to see related marker or bounding box.



Links to data files
+ Licence

Link to journal
article

Abstract



Properties of granular analogue model materials: A community wide survey

M. Klinkmüller^a, G. Schreurs^{a,1}, M. Rosenau^b, H. Kernitz^b

^a Institute of Geological Sciences, University of Bern, Baltzerstrasse 1 +3, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland

^b Helmholtz-Zentrum Potsdam, GFZ Deutsches GeoForschungsZentrum, Telegrafenberg, D-14473 Potsdam, Germany

sented as grain size distribution curves, in which particle grain size is plotted against cumulative weight percentage (Fig. 2).

The original sieve data have been published open access and are available in Klinkmüller et al. (2016b).

1. Citation in the text



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- Heilbronner, R., Keulen, N., 2006. Grain size and grain shape analysis of fault rocks. *Tectonophysics* 427, 199–216.
- Hubbert, M.K., 1951. Mechanical basis for certain familiar geologic structures. *Geol. Soc. Am. Bull.* 62, 1259–1273.
- Klinkmüller, M., Schreurs, G., Rosenau, M., 2016a. GeoMod2008 materials benchmark: The ring shear test data set. GFZ Data Services. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5880/GFZ.4.1.2016.002>.
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1. Citation in the text

2. Dataset-DOI in the References



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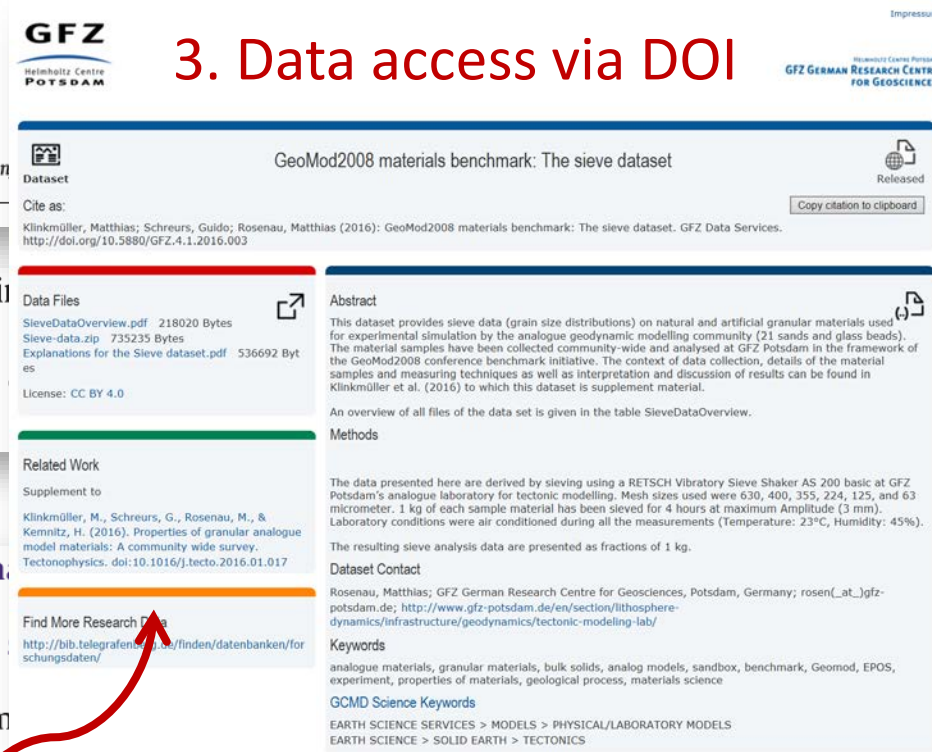
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3. Data access via DOI



GFZ
Helmholtz Centre
POTSDAM

GeoMod2008 materials benchmark: The sieve dataset

Released

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Cite as:
Klinkmüller, Matthias; Schreurs, Guido; Rosenau, Matthias (2016): GeoMod2008 materials benchmark: The sieve dataset. GFZ Data Services. <http://doi.org/10.5880/GFZ.4.1.2016.003>

Data Files

SieveDataOverview.pdf	218020 Bytes
Sieve-data.zip	735235 Bytes
Explanations for the Sieve dataset.pdf	536692 Bytes

License: CC BY 4.0

Abstract

This dataset provides sieve data (grain size distributions) on natural and artificial granular materials used for experimental simulation by the analogue geodynamic modelling community (21 sands and glass beads). The material samples have been collected community-wide and analysed at GFZ Potsdam in the framework of the GeoMod2008 conference benchmark initiative. The context of data collection, details of the material samples and measuring techniques as well as interpretation and discussion of results can be found in Klinkmüller et al. (2016) to which this dataset is supplement material.

An overview of all files of the data set is given in the table SieveDataOverview.

Methods

The data presented here are derived by sieving using a RETSCH Vibratory Sieve Shaker AS 200 basic at GFZ Potsdam's analogue laboratory for tectonic modelling. Mesh sizes used were 630, 400, 355, 224, 125, and 63 micrometer. 1 kg of each sample material has been sieved for 4 hours at maximum Amplitude (3 mm). Laboratory conditions were air conditioned during all the measurements (Temperature: 23°C, Humidity: 45%).

The resulting sieve analysis data are presented as fractions of 1 kg.

Dataset Contact

Rosenau, Matthias; GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Potsdam, Germany; [rosen\(at\)_gfgz-potsdam.de](mailto:rosen(at)_gfgz-potsdam.de); <http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/section/lithosphere-dynamics/infrastructure/geodynamics/tectonic-modeling-lab/>

Keywords

analogue materials, granular materials, bulk solids, analog models, sandbox, benchmark, Geomod, EOS, experiment, properties of materials, geological process, materials science

GCMD Science Keywords

EARTH SCIENCE SERVICES > MODELS > PHYSICAL/LABORATORY MODELS
EARTH SCIENCE > SOLID EARTH > TECTONICS

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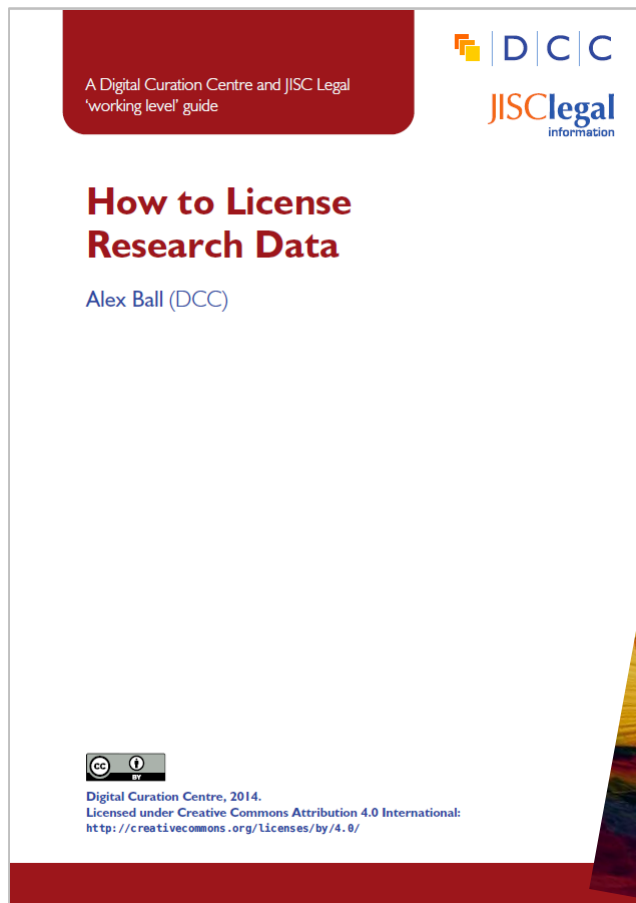
Link to paper

the References



6. Licenses

Licence your data



https://irights.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Open_Content_A_Practical_Guide_to_Using_Open_Content_Licences_web.pdf

http://www.dcc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/reports/guides/How_To_License_Research_Data.pdf

Licences for software

The use of licenses that are as open and standardized as possible (see e.g. [listing of various licenses](#) of the Free Software Foundation or [recommendations of the Software Sustainability Institute](#)) can enable both the use of the software and the subsequent use or further development of the program code.

For example :



GNU General Public License



MIT License

Von Victor Siame <vcopovi@wanadoo.fr> - <http://www.gnu.org/graphics/gnusvgart.html> (<http://www.gnu.org/graphics/official%20gnu.svg>),
FAL, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3653319>



7. Open data metrics

The future: open data metrics

Similar to text publications in journals and books, it is useful to know how often published data sets are cited and used.

The initiative [Make Data Count](#) is aimed at building social & technical infrastructure for open data metrics. Check out [their ebook](#).

