

A Brief Guide: Data Curation

CREATING

Good curation begins with developing strategies for collecting data, as well as creating documentation and metadata to explain and contextualize them. Data curators can help create and review strategies.

MAINTAINING

Ongoing data maintenance supports quality assurance. Practices include implementing a secure storage plan and protective measures such as file backups and file integrity checks.

REUSING

To encourage reuse, data curators may augment metadata, transform file formats to improve interoperability, and link to related datasets to increase discoverability.

Data curation is the active management of research data throughout a project to produce datasets that are FAIR:
Findable, Accessible,
Interoperable, and Reusable.

USING

Applying robust quality control and assurance practices during data analysis -- such as file versioning and metadata review -- facilitates and expedites data archiving and reuse.

SHARING

Data curators facilitate the deposit of data, code, and metadata into reputable repositories that enable discovery and access. This includes applying appropriate anonymization or access controls.

ARCHIVING

Data curators select data for long-term preservation and then facilitate bundling data, code, and metadata into a single package for transfer to an archive.