What is Open Data in research?

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First, what's research data? Karger defines it as:

- The research data needed to verify results reported in a published (or submitted) article.
- Primary data (produced by authors) and secondary data (from other sources).
- Specifically, that could be tabular data, code, images, audio, documents, video, maps, raw and/or processed data, and more.

What makes it open? The research data can be:

- Freely accessed by anyone, anywhere.
- Freely used.
- Freely re-used (though the specific re-use rights depend on the terms of the open license chosen).

Why make research data open? What are the benefits?

Compliance:
- It may be required by funders' and institutions' policies.

Increase visibility and discoverability
- Get credit: It may benefit citations of published articles, and data sets can also be cited.

Advance science
- Others can build on studies, leading to new discoveries that benefit society.

Transparency and reproducibility
- Others can verify findings, validating (or building on) research and helping increase trust in science. Find out more about how Karger is centering reproducibility and transparency in health science research.

Types of Open Access

- **Create a Data Availability Statement** detailing if data are available and where; if they're not, explain why. Karger requires this statement with all research manuscript submissions.
- Follow the FAIR Data Principles.
- Find a suitable data repository. There are many **data repositories for specific data types or fields.** You can find a suitable data repository for your research in the Registry of Research Data Repositories (re3data.org) or FAIRsharing's data repositories registry (fairsharing.org).
- If there are no appropriate subject-specific data bases, **Karger recommends sharing data via a generalist public data repository:** These have a long-term data storage plan. They also assign your data an identifier, such as a DOI – which is important to **allow researchers to find and cite your data.** For this, check out Figshare (figshare.com), Dryad (datadryad.org), Zenodo (zenodo.org) or Open Science Framework (osf.io).

Want to learn more?

- Find thorough guidance about sharing data and Data Availability Statements for submitting a manuscript to any Karger journal on our Publication Ethics page.
- Explore more about how Open Data fits in with Open Access and Open Science in this blog post and on our Open Science web page.
- Have questions? Write us at openaccess@karger.com any time!