Stiftung Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover
University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover

# Amendment to the Research Data Policy

**Research Data Management**
Max Hassenstein, PhD
forschungsdaten@tiho-hannover.de

This amendment refers to the Research Data Policy of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (TiHo) and specifies the aspects mentioned therein, such as rationale, publication criteria, as well as law and ethics concerning the publication of research data. The TiHo explicitly refers to good scientific practice (GWP) in its Research Data Policy[1].

## Rationale for research data publication

Reproducible and transparent scientific work means, on the one hand, to fully and comprehensively describe the scientific methods used, to make the results reproducible, and on the other hand, to precisely describe the working basis, such as samples, measurement instruments, equipment, including software, and the research data. In this context, the FAIR principles[2] (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) come into play: the public provision of research data in an adequate form and accompanied by comprehensive documentation should be strongly considered. Not only sustainability is created by enabling potential research data reuse, but also barriers such as those related to reproducibility are reduced in advance.

## Publication criteria

The suitability of research data for publication can be assessed by certain criteria. Research data is especially valuable when it is unique and its creation is particularly labor-intensive, or it is of great interest to the general public or the research community. The provision of research data is also recommended even when the effort to create it was not *too* great, the data only provides a *limited* value over time, it is *only* of interest to a specific target group, or it *exclusively* serves to verify research findings.[3] The publication of test data, measurement errors, or inadequately described data is not recommended due to its lack of added value and limited reusability. For every data publication, it is essential to ensure adequate documentation and, if possible, to provide metadata. Both ensure reproducibility. Furthermore, whenever possible, universally readable file formats of a non-proprietary format should be chosen (e.g., data tables as CSV instead of XLSX). [4]

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[1] German Research Foundation. (2022) Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice. Code of Conduct. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.6472827

[2] Wilkinson, M., Dumontier, M., Aalbersberg, I. et al. (2016) The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. Sci Data 3, 160018. DOI: 10.1038/sdata.2016.18

[3] Forschungsdatenmanagement-Services, TU Braunschweig (o. J.) Leitfaden für die Publikation und Archivierung von Forschungsdaten an der TU Braunschweig. https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/forschung/forschungsdaten-transparenz/forschungsdaten/fdm-services/informationsmaterialien-links (26.08.2024)

[4] Research Data Management, Max Planck Digital Library (o. J.) Information Platform for Max Planck Researchers. File Formats. https://rdm.mpdl.mpg.de/before-research/file-formats/ (26.08.2024)

## Law and Ethics

In the context of a research data publication, various legal aspects may come into play. It is advised to refrain from publishing research data if it conflicts with legal and ethical affairs or contractual agreements. In advance, it should be clarified whether the Copyright Law, the General Data Protection Regulation, the Federal Data Protection Act, or the German Patent Law are relevant. Additionally, it should be determined whether the research data considered for publication contains sensitive and information in need of protection. This is particularly relevant for data linked to individual persons or companies (e.g., animal/pet owners, agricultural businesses) and data that contains, e.g., the habitats of particularly protected animal and plant species. In any case, it should be checked individually whether the relevant data should be censored, anonymized, pseudonymized, or completely withheld to prevent misuse (so-called dual use).

## Licensing

A license issuance provides third parties with a framework for the reuse possibilities of research data. Creative Commons[5] licenses are widespread and, depending on the license, specify requirements regarding attribution, reuse, or commercial use.

## Publication platformp

The choice of publication site or repository may depend on the academic discipline and/or a strategic positioning to address a specific audience. It is essential to ensure that the intended repository for data publication meets the specific requirements of the respective discipline and provides the data in accordance with good scientific practice for at least 10 years unless the data can be made available at the institution of origin for 10 years. Zenodo acts as an example of a general research data repository. Tools such as the register re3data can help identify suitable repositories. The TiHo library plans to offer a long-term data archiving service via the publication server and repository eLib.

[5] https://creativecommons.org/licenses/