

RWSC Criteria for Evaluating Data Repositories - May 2024

These criteria were developed with RWSC staff and subcommittee members to assess the repositories described in the RWSC Science Plan for the ability to support RWSC’s mission of facilitating data collaborations, access, and reuse.

References

[White House Guidelines](#) | [Center for Open Science](#) | [Belmont Forum](#) | [OpenAIRE](#) | [PLOS](#) | [NIH Guidelines](#)

	Must Have	Desirable	Undesirable
Data	Support for widely used, non-proprietary formats for data and metadata	Support for multiple non-proprietary formats for each data type	Support for only proprietary formats for data and metadata
	Ability for datasets and metadata to be downloaded, accessed, or exported both programmatically and manually		No data access/download/export possible
Documentation	Metadata	Requires a standard metadata format (e.g. EML, ISO19115) and provides guidance for that format	No standard format required, and no capacity to accept “RWSC- formatted” metadata
	Provenance	Requires standardized provenance and provides guidance for that	No capacity to document provenance or accept “RWSC-formatted” provenance
Technical	Unique persistent identifiers (e.g. DOIs)	Repository mints DOIs themselves	Repository has to send data to other repository to mint DOIs
Data Use, Reuse, & Sharing	Access to datasets and metadata without fees	Access to datasets and metadata without registration	

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	Must Have	Desirable	Undesirable
	Support for broad, equitable, open access	Data and metadata fully open	
	Timely access after submission	Near-real time access after submission	Long-wait time after submission
	Maintenance of privacy, confidentiality, tribal sovereignty, and protection of sensitive data	Documented criteria for preventing unauthorized access, modification, or release of data	
	Broadest possible terms of reuse		
	Measures of attribution, citation, and reuse		
	Clear documentation of terms for access and reuse	Machine-readable licenses in metadata	
Sustainability	Provisions for long-term sustainability of repository and data preservation	Long-term management of data	No stable funding No contingency plan for data
		Maintains availability of metadata even if data become unavailable	No stable technical infrastructure
User Experience	Clear and findable instructions on how to submit or access data and metadata and expected/required data and metadata formats	Obvious data submission button/link	