

FAIR Principles

Making Your Research Data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, & Reusable

What is FAIR?

- F**indable: Your data can be discovered by others using metadata and identifiers.
- A**ccessible: Your data can be retrieved with clear access conditions.
- I**nteroperable: Your data can be combined with other data using standard formats.
- R**eusable: Your data can be used again with proper documentation and licensing.

How can we make our research data FAIR in practice!?

F – Findable

Have a good data management strategy from the start

Use clear, descriptive titles and keywords.

Store (meta)data in a standard repository (e.g., Yoda, Zenodo, Dataverse).

Assign a persistent identifier (DOI).

Fill in all the metadata fields

Extra tips:

- Use keywords from your discipline's terminology or controlled vocabularies.
- Add ORCID IDs for all contributors; helps link data to researchers automatically.
- Include metadata and make it open even for restricted datasets; others can find and request them.
- Add citations in your publications using the dataset DOI; this improves findability in indexing systems.

A - Accessible

Use a trusted repository that supports long-term access (Yoda)

Specify who can access the data and under what conditions; Licensing

Provide documentation for access requests if the data are restricted.

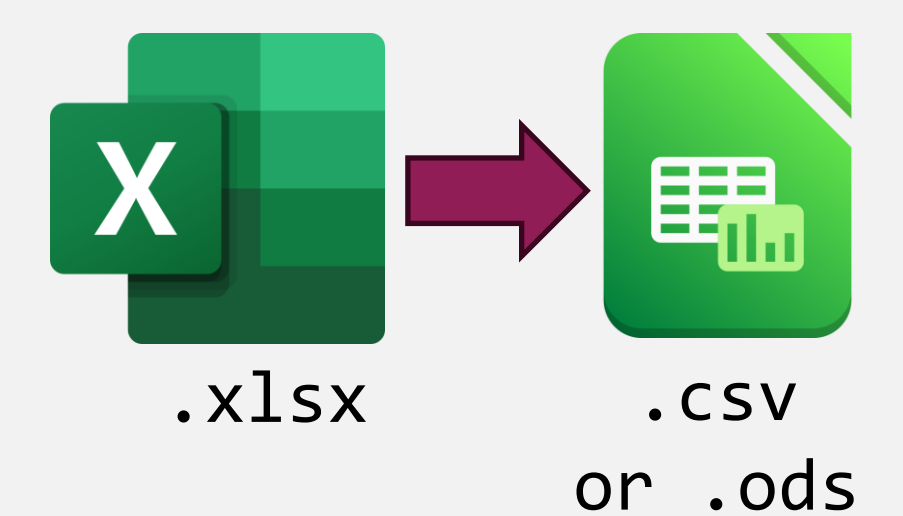
Include links to related materials (e.g., software, code, or protocols)

Keep in mind:

- Accessibility ≠ open — it just means clear, controlled access.
- Choosing proper license is crucial specifically for restricted access data and where intellectual property is matter.
- Including a license also makes it clear what someone can do with data/code
- Add a contact person or generic email in your metadata for future access inquiries.

I - Interoperable

- Publish in one format openable by any system (Windows, Mac, Linux, FreeBSD, etc)
- Choose widely supported & open formats (.csv, .json, .tiff, .netcdf) instead of proprietary ones.
- Use common vocabularies
- Maintain consistent variable names and units across datasets
- Reference the data and metadata that influence this data/metadata



R - Reusable



Rich Metadata



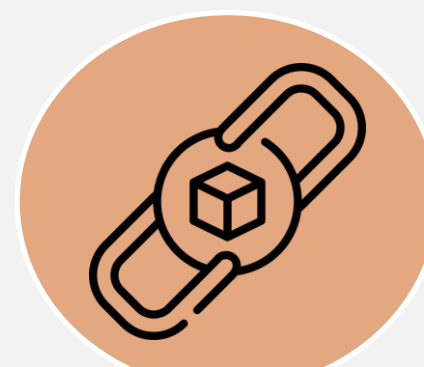
Licensing (e.g., Creative Commons)



Documented Workflows (e.g., README files)



Domain Specific Standards (e.g., data formats, vocabularies, dictionaries/codebooks)



Cite yours and others dataset properly

Tools & Support

At Utrecht University, you're not alone in making data FAIR

We are available to help you with:

- Publishing your data via **Yoda, Dataverse, ...**
- Drafting the **Data Management Plan (DMP)**
- Handling **personal** and **sensitive** data
- Getting **ethics approval** for personal data collection
- And more...

scan the QR code and get in touch



Why FAIR Matters?!

Increases research visibility and citations

Saves time and prevents data loss

Supports reproducibility and collaboration

Meets funder and publisher requirements

Being inline with the new research assessment criteria