

# The Research Sustainability Workflow for the Humanities

Beth Knazook, DRI Research and Engagement Manager

25 February 2026

# The Research Sustainability Workflow for the Humanities

## Reflecting

### Set up a research project for sustainability

- ✓ Create a DMP
- ✓ Look at examples of other datasets



### Document your sources

- ✓ Record names & contexts
- ✓ Note licences
- ✓ Establish version control



### Appraise your data

- ✓ Select what you need to support your outputs
- ✓ Narrate your data story & share the decisions you made in selecting
- ✓ Ask permission or set restrictions where data may be sensitive

## Engaging

### Simplify the presentation

- ✓ Create a plain version
- ✓ Utilise standards and open source tools
- ✓ Document bespoke outputs thoroughly



### Provide for ongoing stewardship and care

- ✓ Utilise repositories as partners
- ✓ Seek out organisational & community support



### Encourage broad reuse of your data

- ✓ Seek open & visible feedback, prompting continued discourse
- ✓ Provide detailed user guides or educational resources, where appropriate
- ✓ Clearly licence your data

# 2024 DRI Legacy Data Preservation Pilot Scheme



‘Legacy Data’ may be information gathered in the course of a research project, where conclusions have been published and the underlying data has either:

- not been shared, or
- was shared through a proprietary technology, or
- is not guaranteed to persist in a reliable preservation environment.



# 2024 DRI Legacy Data Preservation Pilot Scheme



## Training workshops:

Appraisal and Curation  
Copyright & Licensing  
DRI Repository Ingest  
Training

## Resources included:

**DRI Depositor Manual:** <https://guides.dri.ie/depositor-guide/index.html>

## **DRI Guidelines:**

[https://repository.dri.ie/catalog?f%5Bancestor\\_id\\_ssim%5D%5B%5D=r4958092r&mode=objects&search\\_field=all\\_fields](https://repository.dri.ie/catalog?f%5Bancestor_id_ssim%5D%5B%5D=r4958092r&mode=objects&search_field=all_fields)

Knazook, B., Clary, E., & Narlock, M. (2024). **Checklist for Appraising Research Data for Long-term Preservation.**

Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11371489>





# Results of the Pilot

8 applications accepted

7 research areas represented:

Archaeology, Linguistics, Art  
History, History, Medical  
Anthropology, Literature,  
Political Activism

2 websites, 2 videos, 195 documents,  
497 audio files & 167 image files

7 collections published



# Research Sustainability Workshop Agenda

11:00	Welcome	Lisa Griffith
11:10	Schedule for the day	Beth Knazook
11:15-12:50	Lightning talks: Sustainability Barriers	Martin Walsh, Zenobie Garrett, Paula Geraghty, Elizabeth Mullins, Lesley Davidson, Kathryn Cassidy, Jennifer Edmond, Jane Gray
12:50-13:50	Lunch	
13:50	Resource highlight: DARIAH	Joan Murphy
14:00-15:00	Group work: Sustainability Strategies	

*Keynote, 15:00-16:00*

“Low-resource/no-resource: lowering the barriers to sustainable digital preservation in contemporary art making”



LAURA MOLLOY, SENIOR RESEARCH LEAD AT CODATA



## BLOG

# Put people first and research will thrive: Stories of human connection and perseverance underpin research sustainability

Submitted on 16th May 2025



## Takeaways

- researchers struggle to access the support needed to make important decisions
- data and 'grey literature' can surface the contributions of people who would not otherwise be recognised for their work
- the growing volume of data is becoming an unmanageable burden and probable environmental disaster
- sustainability relies on continued relevance and reuse





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## Environmental

Aim for minimum environmental impact for data storage.

Publish transparent processes which will ensure appropriate length and type of storage for datasets.

## Skill-sharing

Create opportunities for one-on-one and community support for data curation.

Rethink stewardship responsibilities in terms of engagement.

Provide added documentation on deposit that helps to make a case for that data's longevity.

## Promote success

Publish case studies describing reuse potential.

Liaise with ECRs and data champions to extend support



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## Research Sustainability Workflow for the Humanities

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This workflow was developed with the generous input of researchers, arts professionals, data stewards, cultural heritage practitioners and HSS repository managers across Ireland to help Humanities researchers think through the problem of designing and maintaining reusable datasets for long-term sustainability. Humanities data may include research materials collected from many different sources including: research notes, archival collections, interviews, websites, performances, design processes, etc.

We consider that sustainable research data are data which:

- Have been created and shared as openly as possible in alignment with the [FAIR principles](#),
- Demonstrate appreciable ongoing value for an audience, and
- Benefit from responsible stewardship, often managed through agreements with established organisations capable of ensuring the appropriate continuity of resources.

### Details

#### CATEGORISATION

Keyword [Sustainable](#)

Discipline [HUMANITIES](#) [Digital humanities](#)

Language [English](#)

Intended audience [Researcher](#)

Resource category [Data](#)

Management [Digital Preservation](#)



<https://marketplace.sshopencloud.eu/workflow/OkdchY>



# Thank you



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