

SSHOC Champion: Enabling FAIR + Time Preservation

A successful synergy with EOSC Nordic and FAIRsFAIR

▶ Meet our SSHOC Champion

I'm Hervé L'Hours, I work in the Digital Preservation Systems and Security section of the UK Data Archive which is the lead partner in the UK Data Service based at the University of Essex. We provide a range of data services around the largest collection of social science data in the UK, including long term digital preservation. We're certified as a Trustworthy Digital Repository by CoreTrustSeal and certified for Information Security through ISO27001. I'm currently working on the SSHOC and FAIRsFAIR projects and I lead the CESSDA ERIC Trust Working Group.

▶ SSH Research Context

Trustworthy Digital Repositories (TDR) are key to increasing confidence in the interchange of digital objects, defined as created or collected data points along with the metadata needed to describe, manage and use the data and a wide range of critical research objects including software, semantic artefacts and publications.

Requirements for a trusted repository cover both organisational and technical infrastructure as well as the ability to manage digital objects to agreed standards like the CoreTrustSeal, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3638211>. These standards are built around OAIS Reference Model concepts, which inform mandatory responsibilities including the provision of active long-term preservation to ensure data and metadata become and remain independently understandable to a designated user community over time.

▶ The Challenge

Data, whether personal, cultural, scientific or commercial, needs to be managed as an asset if we are to maximise its value. The sheer quantity of data available, the tools needed to analyse it, our ability to understand, store and access it all present challenges for the immediate use of data and for ensuring that data remains accessible and reusable in the future. While the FAIR principles of making data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable are at the heart of the repository mission, they do not explicitly take into account inevitable changes to the data environment and data user needs.

▶ Collaboration

Trustworthy Digital Repositories play a key role in enabling data to become and remain FAIR over time. To help data communities fully realise the benefits of digital repositories, SSHOC has joined forces with EOSC Nordic and FAIRsFAIR on a co-authored working paper that expands on key concepts, specifying standards and assessments for an interoperable ecosystem of FAIR data preserved for the long term in trustworthy digital repositories. The paper primarily targets people with less direct experience of digital preservation and TDRs. Its aim is to progress a conversation about how we define and specify requirements for the different types of services that play vital roles in the digital ecosystem. For repositories offering long-term preservation the relevant definitions and expectations are relatively mature and can be validated through TDR certification such as the CoreTrustSeal. It also helps to clarify which organisations are potential candidates to receive CoreTrustSeal TDR status and to identify and support the types of organisations that may not be candidates but also play a vital role in the data ecosystem.

▶ The Challenge

SSHOC works with FAIRsFAIR and with other EOSC projects to collectively support the certification of data repositories. Download and read the co-authored paper from SSHOC, EOSC Nordic and FAIRsFAIR, FAIR + Time: Preservation for a Designated Community, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5797776>.

To find out more about how SSHOC promotes trust and quality assurance through its CoreTrustSeal certification, visit <https://sshopencloud.eu/sshoc-trusted-repositories>.



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