

Choosing a data repository

Transcript of video

By Henning Hansen, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

ORCID: ORCID: 0000-0002-9186-1441

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Many universities and companies run their own data repositories. If you are working within such an institution, your employer may expect you to deposit your data in their own data repository. The same may apply if you have received external funding. The funding body might have certain expectations or wishes when it comes to where the data will be deposited. Before choosing a repository, it may be worthwhile to carefully review all the instructions you have received and to have a dialogue with any parties involved. If you are completely free to choose where you want to deposit your research data, there are a number of factors that you should consider. In this session we will go through some of the most important criteria when it comes to choosing a suitable repository for sharing your research data.

There are a number of criteria you should think about when choosing a repository, and using the following checklist may offer guidance in the selection process. When depositing your data, it is first of all crucial to choose a reputable data repository. Make sure you find a reputable repository that suits your purposes. Choosing a trustworthy and professionally administered data repository may ensure that your data will remain safe, that it will be curated in line with international standards and thereby searchable for the scholarly community worldwide, and last but not least, it may ensure that the data will remain accessible, even in the long run. If you deposit your data in a reputable data repository your data will remain citable, with a persistent identifier. Investigate what the repository will do to sustain the value of the deposited data. Is the repository offering means of tracking the usage of the data (for example metrics and similar)? Are the datasets deposited in the repository indexed by the major data search engines? Once you have found a repository that suits your purposes, you have to make sure that it will receive the data you want to deposit.

Are there specific repositories that specialise in your field of research, and are they widely used? Where are other researchers within your field of research depositing their data, and why? Look to colleagues and guidelines and recommendations from funding bodies, publishers, and journals. A good sign of a trustworthy repository is that it is certified with the Core Trust Seal. The Core Trust Seal can be awarded only after a thorough review of the repository, which makes a CTS certification a

marker of trustworthiness and quality.

A great place to start looking for repositories is the re3data data repository registry, which we will look more closely at in a separate session. It is always a good sign if the repository is included in the re3data list.