



Research Data Policy of the Collaborative Research Centre SFB 1330 Hearing Acoustics (HAPPAA)

(adopted by the Board of the Collaborative Research Centre SFB 1330 on April 30th 2025)

Scope

This policy applies to all projects within the Collaborative Research Centre SFB 1330 Hearing Acoustics - hereinafter referred to as "SFB 1330". It extends the corresponding guidelines of participating partners Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg [1], RWTH Aachen University [2] and the Technical University of Munich [3], respectively, and thereby provides research data policy guidelines for SFB 1330 projects from all project partners, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Jade University of Applied Sciences, Fraunhofer Institute of Digital Media Technology, Hörzentrum Oldenburg gGmbH, RWTH Aachen University and Technical University of Munich. Where conflicting guidelines are provided by the participating partners, the more specific guidelines shall apply. Should other projects partners in SFB 1330 adopt institutional guidelines in the future, this provision will be extended to those guidelines.

Preamble

SFB 1330 is committed to the importance of research data in the scientific knowledge process. This guideline and the principles formulated in it refer in particular to the DFG (German Research Foundation) "Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice" [4], the Alliance of German Science Organizations "Principles for the Handling of Research Data" [5] and to the DFG (German Research Foundation) "Guidelines on the Handling of Research Data" [6].

A reliable and responsible handling of research data is essential for the transparency of research and the dissemination of scientific knowledge. Therefore, the creation, processing, documentation, storage and sustainable provision of research data should adhere to recognized discipline-specific standards and be guided by the FAIR Data Principles [7]. This ensures that data and metadata are findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable. Legal and ethical requirements such as the European Union's "General Data Protection Regulation" [8], national and international copyright regulations as well as the differences and specificities of disciplines, must be taken into account.

Definition of Research Data

Research data refers to all data that is collected and processed during the scientific research process. Depending on the scientific discipline, this can include very different types of data. SFB 1330 adopts the DFG's definition of research data, which includes, among others, the following types of data "measurement data, laboratory values, audiovisual information, texts, survey data, objects from collections, or samples [...]. Methodical forms of testing such as questionnaires, software and simulations may also [...] be categorised as research data." [6].

Cross-linking of research data with rich metadata throughout the research process ensures that data can be easily found and reused.

Principles

1. Access to all research data collected within SFB 1330 is granted to all co-members of SFB 1330 provided this complies with legal and ethical requirements.
2. SFB 1330 encourages its researchers to systematically draft and implement data management plans for their project that contain detailed rules for handling research data all through the data life cycle. The data management plans are reviewed and adjusted when necessary.
3. The SFB 1330 principal investigators are responsible for the implementation of research data management measures within their projects.
4. All steps of creating, processing and storing data have to be documented through all phases of the project life cycle.
5. Rich metadata supporting the findability and reusability are created throughout the research process. Existing discipline-specific metadata standards are used wherever possible. If necessary, existing metadata standards are extended or new standards are created in collaboration with relevant experts and organizations in the corresponding discipline.
6. Researchers within SFB 1330 are obliged to prevent data loss and to ensure its long-term preservation in accordance with the principles for good scientific practice [4] for at least ten years. A corresponding backup strategy is implemented. Version control systems are used for the development of research software.
7. SFB 1330 encourages all members to publish their research data according to the Open Access Policy of their corresponding institution [9], [10], [11] and of SFB 1330 [12] in freely accessible repositories providing a persistent identifier, e.g. DOI (Digital Object Identifier), both for research data and metadata.
8. SFB 1330 recommends publishing of data in one or several repositories in the following order of preference (depending on availability)
 - a. Well-established subject-specific repository in the corresponding discipline
 - b. The SFB 1330 Zenodo community repository [13]
 - c. The repository of the corresponding university
 - d. Other interdisciplinary repositories
9. Whenever possible data are published additionally in the SFB 1330 Zenodo community repository [13].
10. Published data should be provided with an open license to ensure accessibility and reusability - provided this complies with legal and ethical requirements. SFB 1330 recommends the usage of Creative Commons CC0 or CC-BY [14] licenses for metadata and research data and Open-Source licenses for software, e.g. GNU-AGPL or GNU-GPL [15].

Support

The SFB 1330 management team supports their scientists in research data management according to the DFG (German Research Foundation) "Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice" [4], "Guidelines on the Handling of Research Data" [6] and the FAIR principles [7] by providing suitable infrastructure and services in cooperation with the corresponding institutional bodies of the participating partners:

1. Support for discipline specific needs e.g. special trainings or support for creating data management plans, is continuously expanded in a needs-based manner.
2. Consultancy on choosing the adequate license model for data, software and hardware is provided.
3. The "Hearing4all Knowledge Base on Research Data Management" [16], provided by SFB 1330's sister organization, the Cluster of Excellence Hearing4All, supports the researchers with information on different topics, e.g. data repositories, metadata standards, license types and copyright issues.

SFB 1330 collaborates on research data management at regional, national and international level with relevant working groups and infrastructure initiatives to ensure an up-to-date and internationally compatible research data management (e.g., research data management sections at the participating universities and university libraries, Lower Saxony Research Data Management Initiative, National Research Data Infrastructure Germany (NFDI). Its research data and open access policy is coordinated with its sister organization, the Cluster of Excellence Hearing4All.

Validity

This policy was adopted by the Board of the Collaborative Research Centre SFB 1330 on March XXth 2025 and shall remain valid for the duration of the project. The policy is reviewed every two years by the SFB 1330 Board and adjusted, if necessary.

References

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