SNSF Open Research Data Policy

Checklist to identify repositories complying with the FAIR Data Principles

To facilitate the discovery, access, re-use and citation of datasets, it is important that the publication of research data follows a set of clearly defined and broadly applicable best practices. The FAIR Data Principles define a range of qualities a published dataset should have in order to be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (see Wilkinson et al. (2016), The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship, *Scientific Data* 3, doi:10.1038/sdata.2016.18).

Requesting that researchers apply the FAIR Data Principles in every detail is an ambitious policy. In addition, finding the "perfect" repository providing all necessary features to host FAIR data can be a challenge.

To make the transition towards FAIR research data easier, the SNSF decided to define a set of minimum criteria that repositories have to fulfil to conform with the FAIR Data Principles. The answer to each of the questions below must be "yes".

- Are datasets (or ideally single files in a dataset) given globally unique and persistent identifiers (e.g. DOI)?

- Does the repository allow the upload of intrinsic (e.g. author's name, content of dataset, associated publication, etc.) and submitter-defined (e.g. definition of variable names, etc.) metadata?

- Is it clear under which licence (e.g. CC0, CC BY, etc.) the data will be available, or can the user upload/choose a licence?

- Are the citation information and metadata always (even in the case of datasets with restricted access) publicly accessible?

- Does the repository provide a submission form requesting intrinsic metadata in a specific format (to ensure machine readability/interoperability)?

- Does the repository have a long-term preservation plan for the archived data?

The SNSF expects researchers to share their data according to the FAIR Data Principles on publicly accessible, digital repositories. It is important to note that the FAIR Data Principles do not require researchers to share all their data without any restrictions. Rather they advocate applying a standard procedure when sharing research data for reuse, so that humans and computer systems can easily find, interpret and use them under clearly defined conditions