Prepare and manage your data

Establish good data habits from the moment you start planning your research

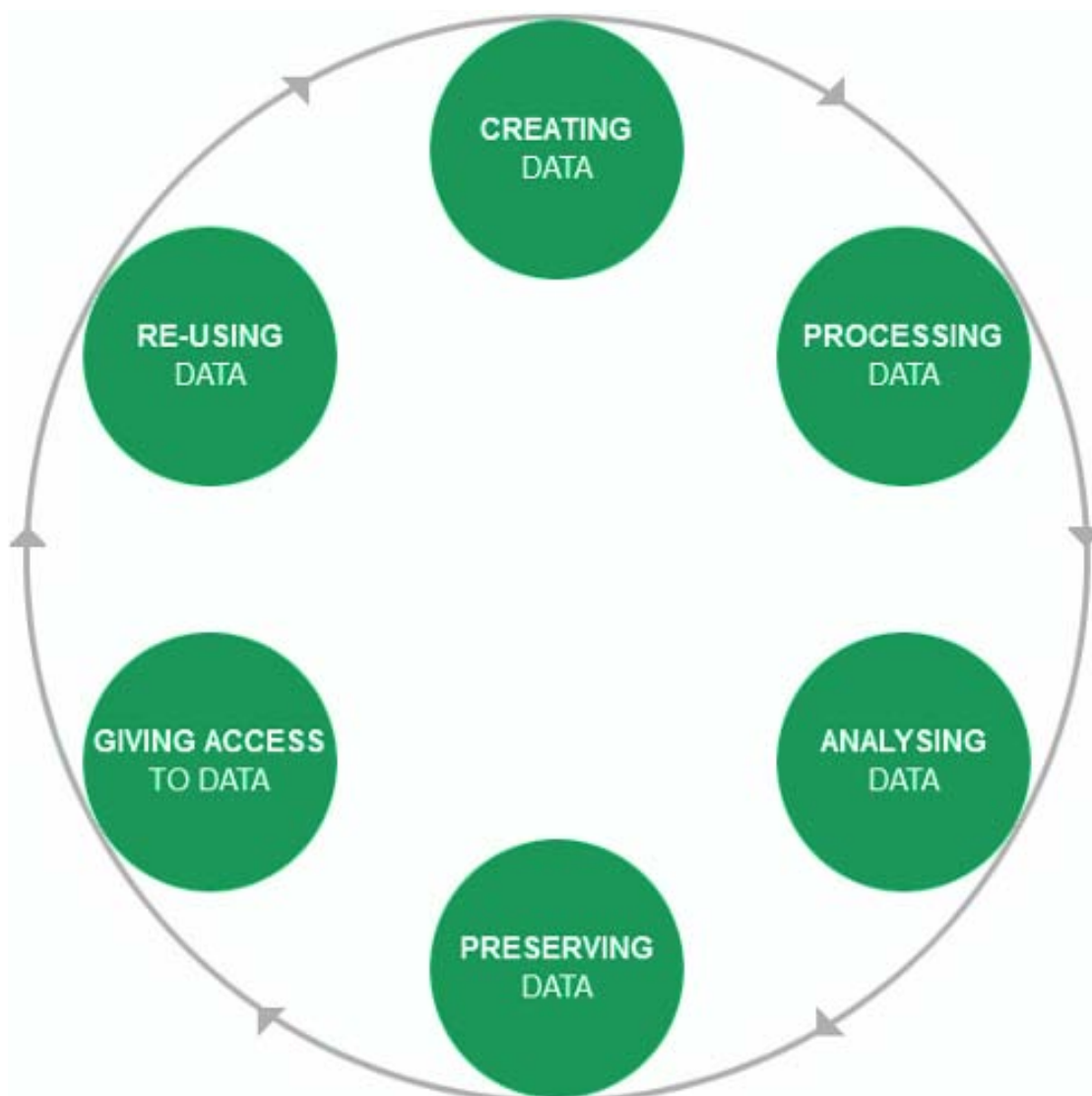## Why do I need a data management plan?

Data created from research are valuable resources.

They can be used and reused for future scientific and educational purposes.

Good data management practices are essential in research, to make sure that research data are of high quality, are well organised, documented, preserved and accessible and their validity controlled at all times.

This results in efficient and excelling research. Well managed data are easily shared and can thus be used for new research or to duplicate and validate existing research.

Data management needs to be planned early on in research, so that practices can be implemented throughout the research cycle.

CREATING DATA

PROCESSING DATA

ANALYSING DATA

PRESERVING DATA

GIVING ACCESS TO DATA

RE-USING DATA

What support is available?

The UK Data Service is a recognised centre of expertise in research data management.

Our online guide is modularised to make it easier to seek the right kind of advice, be it on informed consent, anonymisation, data storage or data formats. Download the entire 35-page guide.

ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data

Our guidance is increasingly becoming an international standard.

Our online resource for trainers is a suite of flexible training materials that can be used to train researchers and research support staff in how to look after research data. Download the entire resource.

ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/training

We provide guidance and training on all aspects of data management and sharing.

We offer a programme of training and workshops in several aspects of research data management, including:
- data management planning for researchers and Research Centres
- consent, confidentiality and ethics in data sharing
- data sharing for Research Ethics Committees
- copyright and the use of existing resources
- describing and contextualising data
- data formats, data storage, back-up and security

See the latest events scheduled.

ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/training

How do I archive my data once my project is complete?

If you are an ESRC award holder

As an ESRC award holder, you are expected to make the research data that result from your award available for secondary scientific research. This is specified in the ESRC Research data policy.

For full details on how to deposit your data with the ESRC Data Store.

ukdataservice.ac.uk/deposit-data/how-to/esrc-award-holders

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