A Brief Guide: Dataverse

This brief guide presents key information for researchers to understand Dataverse, its features, and how to access and use it.

1
What is Dataverse?

1.1 A free, open source web application developed at Harvard University.

1.2 Stores, shares, cites, explores, and analyzes research data.

1.3 Facilitates making your data available to others, as appropriate.

1.4 A robust repository environment for depositing your research data.

2
Why should I use Dataverse?

2.1 Helps you meet both funding and journal requirements.

2.2 Stores many types of data, including:
- Tabular data (CSV, SPSS, R, etc)
- Documentation (pdf, doc, text, code)
- Geospatial data
- Multimedia file (audio-visual)

3
What are the benefits?

3.1 Creates a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) so your data is a citable research output for publications and CV.

3.2 Increases the impact and visibility of your research.

3.3 Stability and longevity of your data as created at time of deposit.

3.4 Statistics and metrics to track and understand how your data is used worldwide.

4
How open is my data? It's up to you!

4.1 Choose your access settings: modify access to your data files - ranging from fully open to completely restricted.

4.2 Customize the terms of use, specifying how your data can be used.

4.3 Modify access to your data files at any time.

4.4 Your metadata is publicly available. Therefore, your data is always discoverable!

5
How do I start?

5.1 Find out if your institution has a local Dataverse - you can check the Portage site to see if your institution is using Dataverse.

5.2 If needed, check with your local Data contact for help.

5.3 Create your Dataverse account.

6
What's the next step?

6.1 Ensure that your data follows best practices for formatting and metadata.

6.2 Upload your data and add your metadata.

6.3 Set any access restrictions or terms of use for your data.

6.4 Option to create a 'guestbook' to track the use of your data.

6.5 Publish your data!