# Preparing research data for sharing

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE &TROPICAL MEDICINE

To ensure research data can be shared with other researchers, resources must be allocated to fulfil requirements and address barriers at the start of a project. This will ensure a measured approach can be adopted that protects study participants and maximises research opportunities.

## Factors to consider when planning sharing

- Why are the resources being shared?
- What resources will be made available? Data, code, collection tools, etc.
- What actions need to be performed to enable sharing? E.g. obtain participant consent, develop a licence agreements, investigate access controls.
- When will the resources be made available? At the same time as a journal paper, on project completion, 1 year after project completion, or some other period?
- Where will they be hosted? E.g. a specific digital repository.

## Reasons to make data available

- ❑ **Enhanced impact:** Gain credit for all research outputs, not just papers
- ❑ **More citations:** Studies suggest publication with accompanying data receive more citations (Piwowar & Vision, 2013)
- ❑ **Reproducibility:** Data is easier to verify, increasing confidence in its validity
- ❑ **Enable new research:** Data can be used for new and innovative research, which in turn increases your citation rate and reputation
- ❑ **Equitable research:** Greater openness ensures research can be accessed and used by researchers working in Low-, Middle- and High-income countries

## Reasons to withhold data

- ❑ **Participant consent:** Consent did not address sharing requirements, due to study age.
- ❑ **Third party IPR:** Data provider or other party will not provide permission to share.
- ❑ **Commercial use:** Research will be used as a basis for a patent application or contains commercially confident information
- ❑ **Anonymisation issues:** Information cannot be removed without loss of context.
- ❑ **Potential harm:** Research participants or others may suffer repercussions if information were made public.

## LSHTM support

- Data sharing guidance is available on LSHTM's Research Data Management pages.
- Regular training for staff and students are delivered via the LSHTM Doctoral Transferable Skills and Talent and Education Development (TED) programme.

## Book an appointment

For advice on data management and sharing costs that apply to your research study, contact the LSHTM Research Data Manager at researchdatamanagement@lshtm.ac.uk.