

Enabling open data sharing in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Mitali Bidkar, Desk Editor, Taylor & Francis

Rebecca Taylor-Grant, Director of Open Science Strategy & Innovation, Taylor & Francis

Open science practices have traditionally aligned more closely with the research cultures of the biomedical and physical sciences, focused on quantitative data sharing, preprints, and the publication of protocols and methods. However, the core principles of openness and transparency also have value within the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), but the use case, need and challenges can vary significantly.

Routledge and Taylor & Francis, with a long-standing focus and extensive publishing portfolio in HSS, have been experimenting with a variety of pathways to support open science specifically for HSS disciplines.

This poster outlines how a standard Open Data policy has been adapted to reflect humanities and social science scholars' research methods and outputs, and how such research data can be better aligned with the FAIR Data principles to support reuse. We also include some of the challenges we have identified for HSS authors who are prompted to share their research data; and the specific changes we made to our guidance and use of terminology to address these challenges.

HSS data sharing can be challenging

- Difficult to identify what constitutes "humanities data".
- Likely that HSS researchers integrate third-party or copyrighted sources into their research (for example longitudinal datasets or archival materials).
- Lack of humanities data sharing policies from stakeholders such as funders or publishers may mean that humanities researchers are less experienced in data sharing practice compared to other disciplines.



What is Routledge Open Research?

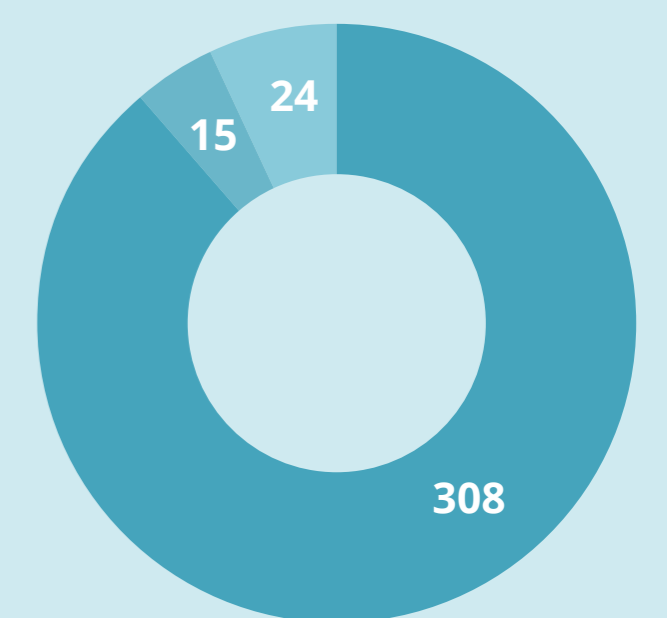
Routledge Open Research is an Open Research publishing platform for scholars working in the fields of the arts, humanities, behavioral and social sciences, offering rapid publication of articles and other research outputs without editorial bias. All articles benefit from transparent peer review and editorial guidance on making all source data openly available.

Humanities researchers consider data sharing to be important

How **important** do you think it is to share research data with others in the humanities?

- Very important or important
- Not important at all
- I'm unsure

(n = 347)



Grant R, Cannon M, McKellar K et al. A changing culture? An exploration of data sharing in the humanities *F1000Research* 2022, 11:671 (poster) (<https://doi.org/10.7490/f1000research.1119002.1>)

HSS data: a variety of sources and formats



Archives



Maps



Interviews



Library collections



Surveys



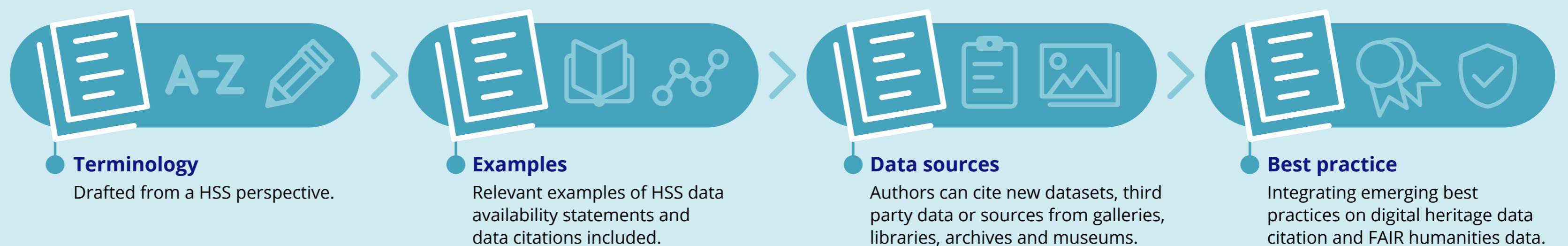
Photographs

Our Open Data policy requirements

Across all F1000 platforms, including Routledge Open Research, we require authors to:

- Deposit all data underlying their study into an approved data repository.
- Apply an open licence (CC-BY or CC0) to their dataset.
- Include a Data Availability Statement in their manuscript, explaining how and where the data can be accessed.
- Cite the data they used, and add it to their reference list.

Adapting our Open Data guidelines for Humanities and Social sciences



Supporting FAIR Data Sharing

To encourage authors to share FAIR data, we provide a set of simple steps as part of our guidelines:

The best way to achieve Findable data is by:

- Depositing your dataset into a recognised data repository which assigns globally unique persistent identifiers (such as DOIs).
- Add as much contextual information (metadata) as possible when depositing your dataset into the repository.

The best way to achieve Accessible data is by:

- Depositing your dataset into a recognised data repository which uses standard communications protocols like "http".
- Ensuring that the data repository you choose gives continued access to metadata even when datasets are removed.

The best way to achieve Interoperable data is by:

- Checking FAIRsharing.org for the standards that apply to your data type and using them.
- Ensuring that the data repository you choose allows you to include links or references to other related data.
- Using open, non-proprietary file formats for your data.

The best way to achieve Reusable data is by:

- Adding as much contextual information (metadata) as possible when depositing your dataset into a repository.
- Applying an open license to your data, preferably CC0 or CC-BY 4.0.
- Checking FAIRsharing.org for the standards that apply to your data type and using them.

What's different about our Open Data Guidelines for Routledge Open Research?

- ✓ Written with Humanities and Social Sciences researchers, and their research practices, in mind.
- ✓ Provides guidance for self-generated data, as well as more traditional humanities sources like archival or museum collections.
- ✓ Examples from published humanities research are used to illustrate each policy requirement.

We hope that these changes will encourage our authors to share a rich and diverse datasets and that they will further encourage other publishers, and stakeholders such as funding agencies, to continue to develop their guidance to support data sharing by HSS researchers.

Read the new guidelines on the Routledge Open Research platform, here: <https://bit.ly/3Ci7Bnd>