# Instructions

* Please download/copy this document and edit in your favorite word processing software.
* Most questions can be updated/revised, and new questions may be added as you see fit.
* At this time we are restricting content to static text. Links are welcomed.
* This page can only be edited by UC3 personnel, which means you should not include transient information or links.
* Note that “XXXX” should be replaced by your institution name/library name.
* Return to uc3@ucop.edu.

# FAQ for Dash

**Who can deposit data here?**

Any XXXX-affiliated researcher (faculty, postdoc, student, or staff) can use this resource to archive and share research data sets, provided they have appropriate permission. Data that are collected at research sites are under the stewardship of the Principal Investigator (PI) named on the resource provided to collect the data, and this PI may grant permission to deposit data.

**What if I have collaborators outside of XXXX?**

You will need XXXX credentials to log into the system and deposit data. You can, however, add your collaborators to the “data contributors” section of the metadata. Although only researchers logged in with XXXX credentials can deposit data, anyone can search, view and download datasets in Dash.

**Who can access these datasets?**

All data in Dash is CC-BY licensed. This means anyone can access the datasets, download them, and use them provided they give proper attribution. Although many researchers would prefer to maintain more control over who downloads and uses their data, we believe that having data that are fully open is the best way to enable academic advancement. Read Panton Principles for Open Data in Science for more information.

**Do you support data embargoes or restricted access?**

Not at this time. We do, however, have plans to expand the Dash functionality to include both. If you have specific requests for functionality, please add it to our GitHub Issue Tracker.

**What do I need to submit the data?**

* Permission from the appropriate PI(s)
* Information about the dataset, including dataset title, creators, keywords
* Access to files comprising the data set

**Are there any file format requirements?**

No. Files of any type are acceptable for deposit. Ideally, file types will be non-proprietary. If you have files of a specialized or proprietary nature, be sure they are accompanied by any pertinent information that would allow the proper viewing and/or usage of the file. This information could be stored in a separate 'Readme' document within the data set files, or could be entered in the 'Technical Description' section of the metadata.

**What best practices can I follow for data preparation?**

There are a variety of best practices depending on your field of research. For generic help, see the [DataONE Primer on Data Management Best Practices](http://www.dataone.org/sites/all/documents/DataONE\_BP\_Primer\_020212.pdf) (PDF). Generally,

* Ensure data files are the most up-to-date and complete versions
* Ensure the integrity of data files (check if corrupted)
* Ensure that all data relating to human subjects has been properly de-identified
* Double-check the accuracy of the descriptive metadata
* Enter as much descriptive metadata as possible in the indexing fields
* Ensure that any information critical to the proper viewing and/or usage of the data is included in the submission (either as a separate 'Readme' file or within the 'Technical Description' metadata field)

**For how long will the data be available?**

Once you have deposited data, it is permanently archived and available through the [California Digital Library](http://cdlib.org)’s [Merritt Repository](http://merritt.cdlib.org). See our Policies [URL needed] page for more information.

**Can I update my data?**

Yes, you can add new versions of your data.

**How will someone find my data?**

Metadata will be indexed by the [Thomson-Reuters Data Citation Index](http://wokinfo.com/products\_tools/multidisciplinary/dci/about/) and [Scopus](http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus).

**Do the data have to be associated with a publication?**

No. Dash accepts all quality data, regardless of whether it’s been used to publish a paper.

**Do I need to log into Dash to get data?**

Persons requesting data are not required to sign-in in order to do so. Data sets will be made available immediately following acceptance of the Data Use Agreement terms (requiring entry of name and a valid email address).

**Do I have to pay for data?**

No, these data are made publicly available free of charge.

**What if I have questions about the data?**

Please contact us at [your XXXX email here] with any questions about the data. Your message will be directed to an appropriate source to answer any questions about the data.