

File Names¹

- a. Short, relevant name
 - i. Less than 25 characters
 - ii. Descriptive
 - iii. Distinguishable (name+path)
- b. Avoid Capital Letters
- c. No Special Characters
- d. No full-stops and spaces
- e. Think of key elements for searching
 - i. Arrange generic to specific
- f. Think sorting
 - i. How would the files be differentiated?
 - ii. e.g. files starting with “YYYYMMDD” will sort differently (and chronologically) than “MMDDYYYY”
- g. Think unique
 - i. As files live within a directory, the path to every file should represent the context e.g. “project/study/assay/run/sampletype/date/datafile”
- h. Consider using
 - i. project name/number/abbreviation
 - ii. department name/number/tream/abbreviation
 - iii. location,
 - iv. analysis(type)
 - v. version
 - vi. sample (type)
 - vii. Include date in recurring events
 - 1. If using date, format = YYYYMMDD
 - viii. Include correspondent names in correspondence files
 - 1. If using name, format = lastname (initial of the first name)
 - ix. Avoid starting the filename with common words e.g. draft, letter, paper etc. unless necessary
 - x. If using numbers in names
 - 1. Use leading zeros to allow for multi digit versions.
 - 2. This will help keep files in your intended order when you sort them by name
- i. Can use different naming conventions for different data / file types
 - i. Context dependent

Document the naming convention and remain consistent . . .

¹ The same naming rules apply to directory names as well