**<https://wptest2016.ala.org.au/how-we/>**

**How the ALA works**

**Integrate data**

**Overview**

Integrating data is the process of bringing multiple, disparate datasets together and combining them into a single data structure. Combining and standardising the different data sets allows them to be searched as a single unit using common terms. The ALA brings together hundreds of data sets and makes them available through a common interface. The ALA uses Darwin Core, an internationally developed biodiversity data interchange standard, as it’s core data model.

#### How we handle sensitive data

Each state and territory supplies the ALA with a list of sensitive species in their jurisdiction and the rules for processing records of those species.

When a record of a species from a sensitive species list is loaded into the Atlas, the location of the record is modified according to the relevant rules. The location may be completely withheld or the accuracy of location coordinates may be adjusted. The ALA’s data integration tool, Sandbox (http://sandbox.ala.org.au/datacheck/), also runs sensitive data processing software.

<http://www.ala.org.au/get-involved/upload-data-sets/>

The ALA accepts datasets in a variety of ways. If you plan to be updating your dataset regularly (monthly or more often), the ALA has a separate [Data Mobilisation](http://www.ala.org.au/about-the-atlas/how-we-integrate-data/data-mobilisation/) guide. If you have a dataset that you will not be planning to update, or only update infrequently, you can download one of the templates below, fill it in, and submit it to the ALA Data Management Team who will arrange for it to be included in the Atlas.

## Download a data set template

* [ALA occurrence data template – simple](http://www.ala.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/ALA-occurrence-data-template-simple.xls) [.xls 20KB]
* [ALA occurrence data template – high quality](http://www.ala.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/ALA-occurrence-data-template-high-quality.xls) [.xls 32KB]
* [ALA species list template](http://www.ala.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/ALA-species-list-template.xls) [.xls 20KB]
* [ALA multimedia template](http://www.ala.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/ALA-multimedia-template.xls) [.xls 20KB]
* [ALA species profile template](http://www.ala.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/ALA-species-profile-template.xls) [.xls 23KB]

Read the [data set template FAQ](http://www.ala.org.au/faq/data-sharing/data-upload-templates/).

## Test your data online

You can test your data using these tools:

* [Sandbox – Test Site](http://sandbox.ala.org.au/)
* [Species list upload](http://lists.ala.org.au/)

## Decide on a license for your data

The Atlas of Living Australia offers an integrated set of biological observations to Australian and International researchers and the community. This requires that each dataset be licensed in a way that ensures that researchers and the community are able to reuse data that you submit.

Our preferred license is the [Creative Commons Attribution license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), where users of your data are required to attribute their use of your data to you.

We also support the very simple

If you have commercial concerns about your data the Creative Commons Attribution, Non-commercial license witholds the use of your data for commercial purposes without your providing additional permission.

We do not accept data under any of the Creative Commons licenses that include the “No Derivatives” term, as a key purpose of the Atlas is to facilitate the re-use of data and the creation of derivative products..

## Submit your data to the Data Management team

Data set upload is currently not available using this website. Contact [the Data Management team](mailto:data_management@ala.org.au) if you wish to upload a data set. The Data Management Team can provide you with guidance on how to structure and describe your data set.

<http://www.ala.org.au/about-the-atlas/how-we-integrate-data/data-mobilisation/>

‘Data mobilisation’ is the process of establishing an automated mechanism for sharing data with the Atlas of Living Australia (Atlas). Due to the effort involved, it is appropriate for those datasets:

* Which are frequently updated; and,
* Where currency through the Atlas is important.

## Data mobilisation process overview

* Identify data for sharing with the Atlas
* Select a license and create the attribution text
* Prepare data for mobilisation
* Map data to export schema
* Develop export scripts
* Validate data and export process
* Export data

For more background information, the following documents explain the process:

* [Introduction to data mobilisation components](http://www.ala.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Data_mob_implementation_components_intro_.ppt) [.ppt 600KB]
* [Data mobilisation implementation: components and tools](http://www.ala.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Data-mob.-implementation-components-and-tools.v031.doc) [.doc 427KB]
* [Guide to mapping a dataset](http://www.ala.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Guidetomappingadataset.doc) [.doc 56KB]

## Other mechanisms for sharing data with the Atlas

In cases where datasets are not updated frequently, data providers share their data with the Atlas by [contacting the Data Management team](http://www.ala.org.au/get-involved/upload-data-sets/) and arranging to provide a dataset through other means; the Atlas loads the dataset when received.