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Term Project - Repository Profile

Final Revisions

Repository: Zenodo

URL: <https://zenodo.org/>

Policies & Procedures

Why did you choose this repository?

When conducting research for previous courses in this program, I generally used repositories associated with or licensed by academic institutions. These repositories are typically restricted to students and staff at these institutions. In contrast, activities in my personal life are often connected to open-source software and crowdsourced databases. This made Zenodo an interesting choice for me, as I was able to learn more about a publicly-accessible repository.

Is the repository open for data submissions from anybody, or does it have a defined collection scope?

Zenodo is an “open dissemination research data repository for the preservation and making available of research, educational and informational content” (*Terms of Use*,

list item 1). Everything collected on Zenodo is submitted by the public. As Zenodo is an open repository, they state that “[anyone] may register as [a] user of Zenodo” and “[all] users are allowed to deposit content for which they possess the appropriate rights” (*General Policies, Content*).

If the repository is open for submissions, what data will the repository accept, e.g. are there any stated limits to what can be deposited? Comment on any limits related to data types (e.g. observational, simulation, etc), domain (biology, social science, etc), or file formats.

The data collected on Zenodo include everything “necessary to understand the scholarly process” related to the research; this includes “[data], software and other [artifacts] in support of publications” as well as “the materials associated with the conferences, projects or the institutions themselves” (*About Zenodo, Open Science knows no borders!*). Before uploading the first item, Zenodo also tells users that “all research outputs from across all fields of research are welcome” (*Deposit page*).

Zenodo is attempting to gather a wide variety of items and explicitly welcomes the following digital items:

publications (book, book section, conference paper, journal article, patent, preprint, report, thesis, technical note, working paper, etc.), posters, presentations, datasets, images (figures, plots, drawings, diagrams, photos), software, videos/audio and interactive materials such as lessons. (*Frequently Asked Questions, What can I upload?*)

The policies state that “[all] formats are allowed - even preservation unfriendly [formats]” (*General Policies*, Content). The search filters include explicit limiters for the following file types: pdf, html, png, jpg, zip, xlsx, txt, docx, csv, xml (*Search page*, File Type).

What guidance does the repository provide to a potential data submitter as to what should be in the “Submission Information Package” (SIP)?

According to the FAQ, “Zenodo and the underlying Invenio Framework for digital repositories were designed according to the OAIS reference model” (*Frequently Asked Questions*, Is Zenodo OAIS compliant?). Beyond establishing that fact, there does not appear to be any further information provided by Zenodo regarding what should be included with submissions. When uploading a file, Zenodo does instruct users to fill out required fields and include a minimum of one file (*New upload*, Instructions). The required fields include: upload type, publication type, publication date, title, authors, description, access right, and license (*New upload*).

Does the repository provide any human assistance or consulting to the submitter?

For support, users can contact Zenodo staff via a support page (*Contact us*).

Does the repository require metadata to be submitted in any specific structure, or according to any specific standard?

Possible metadata for each entry can include: entry name, entry author, publication date, access rights, file type, citations, availability in other repositories, DOI, related identifiers, Zenodo communities, licenses, and versions. This metadata is appended by Zenodo; metadata appended by users can vary.

The metadata types listed above are visible on the record page for each item, both in the main entry and in sidebars. Zenodo hosts metadata “internally in

JSON-format according to a defined JSON schema” and “[metadata can be] exported in several standard formats such as MARCXML, Dublin Core, and DataCite Metadata Schema” (*General Policies*, Content). Zenodo “supports the DataCite Metadata Schema v4,” as well as “article level fields” such as “journal title/volume/issue/pages, conference title/acronym/dates/place/website, book publisher/place/ISBN/title/pages, [and] alternate persistent identifiers” (*Principles*, Plan S). Zenodo provides a complete list of metadata fields on their Developers page (*Developers*).

How comprehensive is the metadata provided?

In terms of best practices recommended by the [Metadata Standards Catalog](#) and the [Data Management Skillbuilding Hub](#), Zenodo provides only minimal metadata. This is understandable, considering that they have no actual restrictions on file formats.

Access Mechanisms

Is a login required to download data? If so, what is the process for creating a login?

There’s no login required to download data. To view the upload process, I created an account and it was very simple and quick; sign-up required only an email, username, and password. I received an email with a confirmation link and then, after clicking the link, the account was ready for use.

Is more than one access mechanism provided? E.g. direct file download, database query, automated script, etc)

Zenodo allows users to directly download individual files and “to harvest [their] entire repository via the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting” (*Developers*, OAI-PMH).

Does the repository display metadata using any specific metadata standard?

Zenodo does not appear to be displaying metadata using any specific metadata standard.

What is included in this repository's "Dissemination Information Package" (DIP)?

When downloading data from Zenodo, only the data itself is provided; no metadata is included. As previously discussed, the metadata can be exported in a variety of formats. The only real limitations on access are in regards to access rights and usage restrictions are designated by those uploading the data. The four main access categories are open, closed, embargoed, and restricted (*Search*, Access Right).

References

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