

Open Data Licenses



What is an open license?

A license gives you a standardized way to grant others permission to use their creative work under copyright law. Researchers can apply “open” licenses to grant others permission to reuse their research data with minimal restrictions. Permitting reuse supports reproducibility and transparency in research, as well as allowing others to build on your findings.

From the reusers’ perspective, the presence of a license answers the question, “**What can I do with this dataset?**”

What license should you use when publishing on F1000Research?

All datasets associated with articles submitted to F1000Research must have an open license, permitting maximum reuse by others with minimal restrictions.

The following are accepted at F1000Research:

Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC0)

CC0 is a public domain dedication tool which is ideal for sharing data. It has no restrictions on reuse at all, so reusers can distribute, remix, adapt and build upon the dataset in any medium or format with no conditions. While there are no requirements for **attribution**, citing CC0 datasets is widely accepted and expected in a research context. This license allows datasets to be reused for commercial purposes.

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You must make sure that your chosen license adheres to any relevant funder, institutional, legal, or ethical obligations.

Attribution

The act of crediting another person who created the work that you have used in your research e.g., crediting the creators who generated the original version of the dataset you used to inform your research output. In scholarly publishing, this usually takes the form of a citation

What happens if I have generated software or code?

If you have generated software or code, this should also be licensed openly so that other users can reuse it. Like openly licensed datasets, open source software or code can be freely used, modified, and shared by others. You should ideally choose a license approved by the **Open Source Initiative (OSI)** to enable reuse. Popular OSI licenses include: **MIT**, **GNU General Public License**, and **Apache License 2.0**.

How do I apply a license when publishing on F1000Research?

Applying a CC license to your dataset is a straightforward process:

- 1 **Choose your license;** for [F1000Research](#) this must be a **CC0** or **CC-BY** license.
- 2 **Communicate this choice to the reader in a clear way.**
 - Usually, the license should be displayed in the repository where you have deposited your dataset.
 - If you are sharing software or code, the license can also be included in a README file.
- 3 **Write a Data Availability Statement** as part of your article which states which license has been applied to the dataset. More information about Data Availability statements for F1000Research can be found in our [open data guidelines](#).

Data Availability Statement

A short statement included with every article which must include:

- the name of the repository where the dataset is stored
- the type of license applied to the dataset
- any other information included [here](#)

What do I do if I have used a dataset from a third party?

The original creators of the dataset should have applied a license to their data to allow you to reuse it, which may not be **CC-BY** or **CC0**. You must report the existing license in your Data Availability Statement, rather than apply a new license. You should also state how you accessed the data, for example via a data repository.

Checklist for publishing with F1000Research

- Choose which license to apply to your dataset (CC-BY or CC0)
- If you have generated software or code, choose an appropriate OSI-approved license.
- Add these license(s) to the repository record and/or to the README file for your dataset, software, or code.
- Write a **Data Availability Statement** to accompany your article, stating which license you have applied.

Relevant resources for researchers

[Creative Commons](#) – provides information about Creative Commons

[Choose a License](#) – provides information about licenses for software to help you decide on a license type

[F1000Research open data guidelines](#) – includes information about what to include in your **Data Availability Statement** and more