Guide for Research Data Support credit administrators

This guide is aimed at research support staff, librarians and others who manage the use of Springer Nature Research Data Support at their institution.
Springer Nature Research Data Support

Springer Nature Research Data Support is an optional Springer Nature service available to researchers who have datasets they want to make findable, citable and shareable. Researchers can access the services directly from the Research Data Support website.

Visit the Research Data Support website:
go.nature.com/RDS

Access the Research Data Support submission system:
go.nature.com/RDSHD20

Research Data Support credits

Research Data Support credits are unique alphanumeric codes which can be used by researchers to waive fees when using the Springer Nature Research Data Support service.

When submitting datasets and metadata to the Springer Nature figshare submission portal, researchers can enter a Research Data Support credit alongside the dataset and its metadata.

Researchers who enter a valid credit are not invoiced for the cost of curation for datasets up to 50GB in size. A dataset can include any number of files as long as they are below the storage limit of 50GB. For larger datasets, an excess storage fee may apply and an invoice will be sent directly to the researcher.

Administrating Research Data Support credits

When an organisation or institution purchases Research Data Support credits, we will provide these directly to the individual nominated as the credit administrator in the Research Data Support agreement.

As your institution’s nominated administrator, you can share these credits directly with researchers.

The criteria for providing credits to particular researchers can be decided by the institution. Researchers who are provided with credits are responsible for protecting them and we recommend that you, as the credit administrator, advise researchers of this at the time when the credit is provided to them.
Eligible datasets

Any dataset, relating to any research discipline or subject area, is eligible for submission to Springer Nature Research Data Support using a credit.

Before data curation begins, Springer Nature Research Data Editors undertake a number of checks to ensure that the dataset is suitable for the service.

There are three reasons why a dataset may not be suitable for the service:

1. The manuscript associated with the dataset is not currently under submission at a Springer Nature journal; OR a paper associated with the dataset has not already been published in a Springer Nature journal or book or another trusted publisher’s journal or book.

2. The dataset is of a type which would be more appropriately shared in a disciplinary repository – for example, genomics data.

3. The dataset contains sensitive information, direct human identifiers or multiple indirect human identifiers.

While the institution and its credit administrator are solely responsible for making Research Data Support credits available to their researchers, it is recommended that these restrictions are taken into account before credits are shared. In cases where a researcher submits a credit with a dataset which is found to be ineligible, the credit will be voided and the administrator will be issued with a replacement credit.

Credit expiry

Credits will expire two years from the date that they are supplied to the institution. In the event that you have unused credits remaining after the two-year period, the credit expiry period may be renegotiated or, alternatively, the value of the credits may be refunded to the institution.

If a credit is shared by mistake

If you become aware that a credit has been shared by mistake, either by the credit administrator or by a researcher who has shared their credit with other researchers, please contact the Springer Nature Research Data Helpdesk at researchdata@springernature.com

In the case where a credit which has already been used is submitted a second time, the submitted dataset will be rejected and the administrator will be notified.

Reporting on credit usage

Springer Nature will provide reports on credit usage and unused credits remaining. When the institution’s credits are nearing depletion, they will be contacted by their account manager to organise the replenishment of credits, if required.

For more information, contact us:
researchdata@springernature.com

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