

SETAC Journals Data Transparency Policy

Last updated: 22 June 2015

Access to data and calculation tools sufficient to reproduce the results presented in papers is becoming one of the biggest challenges facing scientific journals, and a working group comprising the SETAC journal editors and members of the Publications Advisory Committee (PAC) was tasked with the issue of what to require of authors. The availability of digital data and calculation tools enriches the manuscript, clarifies the research, and most importantly, allows for novel analyses, interpretations, or re-analyses by the scientific community, thereby maximizing the benefits of the science. Data and calculation tools should be accessible and preserved, at a minimum; discoverable and freely available, at the optimum. Curating data is a monumental task, and it was decided to take a phased approach for SETAC journals that will involve consultation with the community to develop a formal Data Transparency Policy. Here we consider data as digital information that is generated and analyzed during a study, and calculation tools as mathematical or logical algorithms used to analyze and compute derived values from data.

This document may be updated periodically.

As **the next step** in implementing a full Data Transparency Policy, both SETAC journals—Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (ET&C) and Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management (IEAM)—will require authors to provide a Data Availability Statement upon submission.

Specific Guidelines for Authors

The Data Availability Statement will clarify whether the data and associated metadata are available through an online repository or supplemental files, are available from the authors or a third party, or are unavailable with reasoning (i.e. proprietary, legal implications).

Data deposition: Where data are deposited in a public repository, the Data Availability Statement should specify the name of the repository along with digital object identifiers (DOIs) or accession numbers for the datasets. Several options exist for online databases, including: GenBank (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/>), EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/embl/>) or the DNA Data Bank of Japan (<http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/>) for DNA sequence data; the Protein Identification Resource at Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington (<http://pir.georgetown.edu/>), the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/>) or the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (<http://www.isb-sib.ch>) for protein sequence data; and the GEO (Gene Expression Omnibus) (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>) or ArrayExpress Archive

(<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress>) for microarray data. Manuscripts that present microarray data should follow the MIAME (Minimum Information About a Microarray Experiment) guidelines (<http://www.mged.org/miame>).

Supporting information: ET&C and IEAM allow smaller datasets to be hosted alongside the article. Supplemental data files will be published online only, free of charge, in their original, unedited form and should be submitted with the manuscript. Supplemental data files are identified in the journal's table of contents and on the first page of the manuscript. Consideration should be given and care should be taken to ensure that the data are easily accessible and user friendly (i.e. Excel files versus PDF files).

Available upon request: Where the data are only available upon request, the reasons for the restriction must be articulated. All data, including data that are not publicly available, must be made available to the editor and the reviewers during the review process upon request. The editor(s) and reviewers will keep such data in confidence.

Exceptions: Exceptions to making data available should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief directly. Requests will be considered, but could be grounds for rejection.

To provide feedback on this policy or to contribute to the data transparency discussion, please contact:

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