

# LSE Research Data Preservation Survey

We want to find out more about the digital material and data you use or create during your research so that we can help you preserve it. We are particularly interested in whether you expect to preserve your material and data beyond the life of your project and if so, how you will do this. The information will help us to produce effective support and advice for your needs.

The questions are about any and all of the material and data you use or create in the process of your research, but not the publications and other outputs you produce as a result of that research.

The responses to this questionnaire are anonymous and the statistical summary will be made publicly available. If you do provide your email address (for follow-up contact or in connection with the prize draw) this will not be made public and will only be used in connection with this questionnaire.

The survey is being conducted by the Digital Communication Enhancement (DICE) project based in the LSE library. The aim of the project is to improve preservation of research material and data. You can find out more about this project at <http://lsedice.wordpress.com/>

There is a maximum of 24 questions in the survey. Please allow enough time to complete the survey as you cannot save your responses and return later (our tests show it will take 15 to 20 minutes).

- radio button selection
- multiple selection
- \* Required response

## 1. What is your job title? \*

- Research Assistant
- Research Officer
- Research Fellow
- Senior Research fellow
- Principal Research Fellow
- Professorial Research Fellow
- Lecturer
- Senior Lecturer
- Reader
- Professor
- PhD research student
- Other:

## 2. Which LSE Department or Centre are you associated with? \*

mark all that apply to your research (not other work)

- Accounting
- Anthropology
- Economics
- Economic History
- European Institute
- Finance
- Gender Institute
- Geography and Environment
- Government
- International Development
- International History
- International Relations
- Language Centre
- Law
- Management
- Mathematics
- Media and Communications
- Methodology Institute
- Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method
- Social Policy
- Social Psychology
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Asia Research Centre
- Cities Research Centre
- Centre for Climate Change, Economics and Policy
- Diplomacy and Strategy Research Centre
- Centre for Economic Performance
- Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines
- Financial Markets Group Research Centre
- Grantham Research Institute
- Health and Social Care Research Centre
- Human Rights Research Centre
- International Growth Centre
- Middle East Centre
- Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science
- Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion
- Spatial Economics Research Centre
- Centre for the Analysis of Time Series
- I am not associated with any LSE Department or Centre
- Other:

**3. Approximately how many years have you been conducting doctoral and post-doctoral research? \***

this could be anywhere, not just LSE. If you had a break from research, don't include these years in the total. Don't make any calculation for being part time

- less than 1 year
- at least 1 but less than 3 years
- at least 3 but less than 6 years
- at least 6 but less than 9 years
- at least 9 but less than 12 years
- at least 12 but less than 15 years
- at least 15 but less than 18 years
- at least 18 but less than 21 years
- at least 21 but less than 24 years
- 24 years or more

**4. What proportion of your working time do you currently spend on research? \***

give an estimate based on the last 12-month period you conducted research. If you have been researching for less than 12 months, base it on the whole time you have been researching

- 25% or less
- more than 25% up to 50 %
- more than 50% up to 75 %
- more than 75%

**5. Where does your research funding come from? \***

select all your major sources of funding

- AHRC
- BBSRC
- EPSRC
- ESRC
- MRC
- NERC
- Wellcome
- LSE scholarship
- Self-funding
- Prefer not to say
- Other:

**6. What kinds of digital material and data are you using or creating in your research? \***

please tick all that apply

- Text (e.g. Word documents)
- Audio
- Still images
- Video
- Web pages (including blogs and wikis)
- Emails
- Tabular or relational data (e.g. spreadsheet or database)
- Charts or graphs
- Presentational material (e.g. poster, PowerPoint)
- GIS, mapping, CAD or 3D models
- Computer programs or code
- I do not use or create material or data in my research
- Other:

**7. If you have ever re-used your own material created in previous research, or used digital material or data created by others, have you encountered any of the following issues? \***

select the first check box if this question doesn't apply to you

- I do not re-use mine or others' material or data
- Obsolete file format
- Obsolete medium (e.g. floppy disc)
- Incompatible computer code (e.g. obsolete operating system)
- Understanding the material/data (e.g. explanation of formulae used in a spreadsheet, or documents explaining the rationale of a survey sample)
- Intellectual property rights (e.g. copyright or licensing)
- Security/confidentiality/privacy
- I have not encountered any issues when re-using material/data
- Other:

**8. Does the research you are currently working on have a data management plan? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- I don't know what a data management plan is
- I don't know if my project has a data management plan
- My project does not have a data management plan
- A data management plan was written as part of the bid but has not been updated
- My project has a data management plan that covers the duration of the research
- My project has a data management plan that extends beyond completion of the research
- Other:

**9. Where do you store the working version of the digital material and data you use or create in your research? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- On the hard drive of my computer
- On a departmental server
- On the LSE network (e.g. the H: drive)
- On a separate memory device (e.g. external hard drive or memory stick)
- In an Internet-based file management service (e.g. Google Docs, DropBox)
- Other:

**10. How do you organise the digital material and data you use or create in your research? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- I keep it in a single folder
- I use a folder structure
- I use file naming conventions
- I use software that supports version control
- I use a database to organise my files (e.g. Lightroom or Picasa for images, EndNote or Zotero for references)
- I keep my files in an Internet-based file management service (e.g. Google Docs, DropBox)
- Other:

**11. How do you share the material and data you use or create during the course of your research? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- I use a shared folder on a departmental server
- I use a shared folder on the LSE network
- I use a shared-document creation service on the Internet (e.g. Google Docs)
- I use a document deposit service on the Internet (e.g. DropBox)
- I use email to exchange documents
- I use physical media (e.g. CD, DVD, memory stick)
- I use an FTP/TFTP server
- I use a Web site/blog/wiki/forum
- I do not need to share material or data
- Other:

**12. Do you describe and/or document your research material and data in a way that lets you and others navigate or understand your material or data? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- I don't document or describe my material/data
- I embed descriptions in the material (e.g. using descriptive file names, metadata in images or comment statements in programs)
- I maintain a separate description that acts as a catalogue or index (e.g. document, spreadsheet or database)
- Other:

**13. Do you back-up your research material and data during the lifetime of the project? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- No, I just have a single version of my material/data
- I keep my material/data on the network and know that it is backed up
- I keep my material/data on the Internet and know that it is backed up
- I keep a backup copy of my material/data on a separate device
- I keep more than 1 backup copy of my material/data on separate devices
- Other:

**14. Do you plan to preserve your research material and data beyond the end of the project? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- Yes, and it will be publicly available (you will be directed to questions 15 and 16)
- Yes, but it will be private/restricted (you will be directed to question 17)
- No (you will be directed to question 17)
- Not sure (you will be directed to question 17)

## **Answer questions 15 & 16 if you plan to make your research material publicly available**

### **15. How do you plan to make your research material and data publicly available? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- I will send the material to anyone who contacts me
- I will put the material in the LSE Research Online repository
- I will put the material in a non-LSE institutional repository
- I will put the material in the appropriate subject, UK or international research data archive
- The material will be available for download from the funder's Web site
- The material will be available for download on a dedicated public Web site
- Other:

### **16. What material and data do you think will need to be made available? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- Research material and data
- Descriptive documents or metadata about the research material/data
- Unpublished reports, working papers, posters and presentations
- Administrative records (e.g. budgets and expenditure)
- Web-based material (e.g. a Web site, blog or wiki)
- Email
- Other:

**17. What are the main factors that could deter or prevent you from making your material and data publicly available? \***

if you are working on more than one project or theme, answer for the one that takes most of your time

- Contractual factors
- Commercial sensitivity
- The data cannot be anonymised
- Intellectual property rights issues, including copyright
- Ethical issues
- Reputational considerations
- The cost of preserving material and data
- Technological issues
- There is no reason to make it available
- I don't know how to make it available
- Other:

**18. How confident do you feel in your ability to preserve research material and data beyond the life of your research?**

assume that you have research material/data that need to be made available

- very confident
- reasonably confident
- not very confident
- I wouldn't know where to start
- Other:

**19. Have you used any of these data preservation services to store material and data (not publications or other outputs) from your research?**

answer for all the research you have been involved with

- UK Data Archive
- ESDS (economic and social data service)
- ADS (archaeology data service)
- LSE Research Online repository
- Harvard Dataverse
- None of the above
- Other:

**20. If you have used a data preservation service, please tell us briefly about your experience of the service leave the box blank if you have not used any data preservation services**



**21. If training and support were to be provided at LSE to help you with digital preservation of your research material and data, which of the following services would you use? \***

		Very likely to use	Likely to use	unlikely to use	would not use	not sure	
Email/telephone support for specific queries		•	•	•	•	•	
Helpdesk-style face-to-face support		•	•	•	•	•	
one-to-one training		•	•	•	•	•	
1-hour group training sessions on specific topics		•	•	•	•	•	
Structured training course of several 1-hour sessions		•	•	•	•	•	
A half-day training course		•	•	•	•	•	
A one-day training course		•	•	•	•	•	
discussion with a data preservation specialist at the start of my research		•	•	•	•	•	
discussion with a data preservation specialist at the end of my research		•	•	•	•	•	
A Web-based training course		•	•	•	•	•	
A Web-based set of 'frequently asked questions' (FAQs)		•	•	•	•	•	
A Moodle-based set of data preservation		•	•	•	•	•	

training resources							
Include topic in existing Information Literacy training (MY592)		•	•	•	•	•	

**22. If you have any comments or concerns about preservation of digital research material and data that you would like to tell us about, please use this opportunity:** Remember to provide your email address if you want a reply

**23. If you are willing to be contacted to answer further questions about the preservation of digital research material and data, please give us your name and email address:**

This will only be used to contact you about preservation of research material/data

**24. If you want to be entered into the prize draw, please give us your name and email address:**

this must be an @lse.ac.uk address and will only be used if you win a prize in the survey draw



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This is an inactive copy of the on-line survey prepared as part of the Digital Communication Enhancement (DICE) project by Malcolm Raggett, March 2012. The questionnaire was live from 14th to 25th March 2012 with all research-active staff and PhD students at the London School of Economics and Political Science being invited to respond.