



Institutional Membership in QDR

Qualitative Data Repository

The Qualitative Data Repository (QDR) is the first domain repository in the United States dedicated to curating, storing, preserving, and publishing digital data generated through qualitative and multi-method research in the social and health sciences, law, education, and the humanities.

"NYU's membership in the Qualitative Data Repository has enabled us to help bring open scholarship to fields of study that couldn't otherwise participate in these 'open' practices. We know that we can recommend the QDR's services to researchers and rest assured that the deposits will be preserved, discoverable, and F.A.I.R."

—Vicky Rampin, Librarian for Research Data Management and Reproducibility, NYU

QDR provides the infrastructure and expertise needed to publish qualitative data. Our curators are specialists in addressing the challenges that can arise when researchers share data. As part of our model of consultative curation, skilled staff support researchers throughout the research lifecycle:

- **CONSULT WITH DEPOSITORS** on data management planning that meets researchers' goals and concerns and complies with funder mandates.
- **REVIEW DOCUMENTS**, including informed consent language for data sharing and Data Management and Sharing Plans as required by NIH, NSF, and other funders.
- **HELP DEPOSITORS** to format and prepare data using best practices, and to share their data legally and ethically.
- **ASSIST DEPOSITORS** in creating comprehensive documentation, and translating that documentation into standardized metadata formats.
- **ASSIGN DOIS** to all data and ensure their discoverability through meta-searches such as Google Dataset Search, the Dataverse catalog, and DataCite search.
- **TRACK AND DOCUMENT THE RE-USE OF DATA** so that reuse is captured in citation metrics such as Make Data Count.

We frequently collaborate with local research librarians and other data specialists during consultations to find optimal solutions for any project.

We hope your institution joins QDR!

QUALITATIVE DATA REPOSITORY | Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry
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QDR Protects

All QDR data are encrypted at rest and in transit following best industry practices. QDR helps researchers to respect participant confidentiality and comply with ethical and legal norms by conducting disclosure risk and copyright reviews on all deposited data. Additionally, QDR offers file-level controlled access for data projects, so that even sensitive materials can be shared responsibly. Access controls are implemented in close consultation with depositors, allowing us to address depositor concerns individually.

“QDR has been a wonderful partner and provides such seamless guidance throughout the process of data deposits. Their team has curated a process that makes qualitative data deposits easy. The investigators receive help and guidance in every step from inspecting the consent for data sharing to guidance about data de-identification to avoid losing valuable qualitative context.”

—Salimah Meghani, PhD, MSN, MNE, Palliative Care Research Consortium.

QDR Innovates

QDR, Hypothesis (an open-source software company) and Cambridge University Press have partnered to develop Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI). ATI links ‘open annotations’ comprising analytic notes, excerpts from supporting sources, and data sources themselves directly to passages in articles published on multiple platforms. More than 20 published articles and a book now use ATI. In early 2023, QDR released the Anno-REP (Restructure, Edit, and Publish) tool to make ATI annotations easier for individual researchers to create independently of publisher.

See a visual depiction and more details about ATI at qdr.org/ati

QDR Convenes

QDR’s staff facilitate conversation among key stakeholders on how researchers can balance and coordinate different data-related mandates. For example, data sharing can be constrained by the need to protect human participants. QDR and other domain repositories, university IRBs, publishers, and funders are working together to refine guidance and improve template informed consent script language that address challenges to sharing data generated through interactions with human participants.

Standards Compliance

- Certified through 
 - Demonstrates compliance with 16 core requirements
 - Includes peer review to ensure that our policies and procedures conform to internationally recognized best practices
- Meets all criteria for repositories holding human subjects data in the US National Science and Technology Council's "Desirable Characteristics of Data Repositories for Federally Funded Data" as well as in the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) "Selecting a Data Repository for Data Resulting from NIH-Supported Research"
- Listed as a recommended repository by PLOS, Springer/Nature, F1000 Research, and Elsevier

Technology

- Open-source repository software Dataverse
- Customized for qualitative and multi-method data and QDR's curation workflow
- QDR actively contributes to the Dataverse software's rapid development.
- Cluster of high-performance servers and virtual private networks (VPNs)
- Hosted by Amazon Web Services (AWS) with multiple redundant back-ups on other platforms

Workflows and Policies

- Repository operations are managed through fully documented and published workflows.
- QDR has published and follows a set of policies, including collections development/acquisition, curation, data breaches, preservation, privacy, security, and sensitive data.

Preservation

- Member of the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS), a consortium of social sciences data archives in the U.S. with mutual guarantees of continued access to data
- Additional long-term storage in off-site servers using BagIt and OAI-ORE metadata following Research Data Alliance (RDA) recommendations



Becoming a Member of QDR

Qualitative Data Repository

“Supporting data sharing for the diversity of data at our institution is assisted by having a web of data publishing options that fit the needs of different projects with varying levels of sensitivities. Having access to QDR staff and expertise helps us provide robust services to our research community for sharing qualitative data ethically and in line with best practices.”

—Sophia Lafferty-Hess, Research Data Management Consultant, Duke University

Institutional membership fees support the curation and preservation of data projects deposited with QDR by scholars affiliated with member institutions. Prices are quoted in USD.

	Annual Fee 2025-2026	Annual Fee 2026-2027 (estimated)
Tier 1 (5 projects)	\$600	\$700
Tier 2 (10 projects)	\$900	\$1,050
Tier 3 (20 projects)	\$1,200	\$1,400

COVERAGE: Only one unit or division of an institution (for example the library or a social science research center) needs to join QDR for the entire institution to be considered a member. All of the institution’s current affiliates — researchers, faculty, students and staff — are eligible to have a project curated by QDR under their membership agreement.

COORDINATION: Member institutions designate an Institutional Representative, often a member of your research data services team. Representatives serve as liaison between the institution and QDR and participate in repository governance. They also decide which of the data projects deposited with QDR by affiliates of the institution will count against its allotment of 5, 10, or 20 projects.

DURATION: Institutional memberships with QDR run per academic year (beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30). Once data are published by QDR, our preservation policies ensure that they remain available, even if a membership lapses.

COST: Data projects deposited under an institutional membership agreement are generally curated and preserved with no charge to the depositor. Data projects that are larger or involve more complicated assistance than is the norm for QDR deposits may bear additional fees; these are usually agreed during the initial consultation between the depositor and QDR and charged to the depositor. QDR will also discount all quotes for storage and curation of data for grant-funded research at member institution by 20%.

You can find our institutional membership agreement and more information about membership with QDR at qdr.org/membership