You invest extraordinary time and energy collecting and generating research data. You spend countless hours in archives, interviewing experts, conducting focus groups, and engaging in ethnographic research. Why should you share your valuable data? Because doing so is good for you and for other scholars.

**Sharing your research data helps you by:**

- enabling you to demonstrate the rigor and power of your analysis and its alignment with best practices in the social sciences
- assisting readers to understand how you conducted your research, making your work more evaluable, and increasing confidence in your findings
- facilitating your compliance with funder and journal mandates for data sharing
- drawing attention to, and leading to more citations of, your work
- promoting collaboration with scholars who have similar research interests.

**Sharing allows other scholars to re-use your data to:**

- address important questions that would otherwise be too costly or difficult to answer
- conduct research when a lack of resources for data collection would otherwise prevent them from doing so
- teach qualitative methods to the next generation of researchers.
QDR is the first repository in the United States dedicated to storing and publishing digital data generated through qualitative and multi-method research (e.g., text, images, audio, and video). QDR was built by scholars, for scholars: our team comprises social scientists specializing in the generation and analysis of qualitative data, and information scientists, at Syracuse University, Georgetown University, and the University of Washington, Seattle.

As signaled by our CoreTrustSeal certification, QDR belongs to a select group of trusted data repositories. Our central focus on data underpinning qualitative and multi-method research distinguishes QDR from other domain repositories, from self-service repositories, and from your own institutional repository.

QDR helps social scientists to share data responsibly, ethically, and legally. We have the technical infrastructure and substantive expertise to store, preserve, and showcase all kinds of qualitative data.

Some examples from QDR’s varied collections (data.qdr.syr.edu) include:

- campaign videos from elections in Latin America
- focus group and interview transcripts, as well as a survey, of scholarly users of Git and Git hosting platforms, ranging from beginners to advanced
- a catalog of 100 oceanographic big-data science initiatives, with details about each project
- internal reports from refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey
- human rights testimony offered during the Northern Ireland Troubles
- participant-created maps, interview and focus group transcripts, as well as agricultural statistical data, related to seed production and distribution systems in West Africa

By following archival best practices, QDR ensures that data remain findable and accessible for the long-term. QDR’s membership in the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS) assures continued access to data deposited in QDR should QDR cease operations.
QDR’s experts offer tailored advice as you generate and share qualitative research data.

As you plan and carry out data collection, we can help you:

- draft a data management plan (DMP) for grant proposals
- think about privacy and confidentiality, and craft informed consent protocols that anticipate the possibility of sharing human participants data.

When you are ready to share your data, QDR assists you with each step of the deposit process (described in more detail on the QDR website). In an initial conversation, you tell QDR about your research and communicate any concerns you have about sharing data, and we help you to consider:

- which data you might share
- how to organize your data and prepare them for sharing
- whether to de-identify sensitive data (and how to do so)
- whether any of your data are under copyright (in the U.S. or other countries)
- what documentation to generate.

Once you deposit your data, QDR checks the integrity, naming, and format of your files, and helps you to select appropriate access controls if your data are sensitive or need to be withheld prior to the publication of an associated article.

QDR publishes your data project once you approve it. Lead time depends on data type and complexity; deposits can often be published in less than a week.

Our knowledgeable curators work with you to optimize how your data and documentation are displayed. We ensure that their presentation reflects the nature and the rigor of your scholarship, and allows other scholars to easily understand and re-use the data. Data deposited in QDR are easy to find in our catalogue, and in other catalogs such as DataCite or Google's Dataset Search.

Once it is published, we promote your data project by assigning it a digital object identifier (DOI) that makes it easy to cite, and we display metrics on how many times it was viewed and downloaded, highlighting your research impact.
QDR provides other resources and services for researchers who work with qualitative data:

- The QDR website offers advice on key issues such as data management, copyright, and generating and working with sensitive research data.
- QDR personnel publish broadly, and teach workshops and short courses, on best practices for managing, archiving, and sharing qualitative data.
- QDR convenes expert workshops on, e.g., sharing sensitive data and data produced with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS).
- QDR generates materials for teaching qualitative data management, and for teaching with qualitative data.

Annotation for Transparent Inquiry

QDR also serves scholars by developing new approaches to increasing the openness of qualitative and multi-method research. Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI), which builds on “active citation,” an earlier technique pioneered by Andy Moravcsik (Princeton University), facilitates transparency by allowing you to digitally annotate your published articles. Annotations are linked to specific passages in the article and appear right beside the article text on the journal web page.

Annotations allow you to provide additional information about the research context and/or the generation and analysis of data. Annotations amplify the text, enable research transparency, and can facilitate data access by linking to the data source(s) (hosted by QDR) that underlie your claims. QDR can also help you link your data to your publications in other ways that are appropriate for the type of research you conduct.

QDR’s work has been generously supported by the National Science Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Mellon Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. QDR also collects dues from institutional members and modest per-project fees from researchers not affiliated with a member institution. Visit our website for information on how charges are calculated and how you can apply for generous fee waivers and discounts.