How research data are managed at the Swedish National Data Service

Research data that have been handed over to the Swedish National Data Service (SND) in order to be made accessible are managed with the aim of remaining readable and understandable in the future. In order to make the data visible and searchable, a data description is published in SND's catalogue and on other relevant information platforms.

Data integrity and long-term security

Once research data have been handed over to SND they are managed in a secure way that ensures future reusability. Examples of this include:

- Virus scan of files
- Control of indirect identifiers
- Checksums at file level to guarantee data integrity
- Original files are kept in their original file formats as well as saved in formats fit for long-term preservation (conversion if needed)
- Continual backup (at two independent locations).

Additional actions may be taken if necessary, e.g.:

- Conversion to file formats that are common and have open specifications
- Files may be organized and named in a structured and consistent manner.

Data and documentation

In addition to the data, it is important to provide access to all the documentation that was produced during the research process, as it is necessary to be able to understand and reuse the research data in the future. Examples of such documentation include variable lists, codebooks, questionnaires, publications, study reports and technical reports.

Data and associated documentation may be handed over using SND's form, which also allows for a structured description of the data. SND is a Trusted Digital Repository and uses established standards and best practices for research data management and documentation. Using SND's service to make your data available will ensure that they become visible, searchable and reusable.

Publication

The research data description is published in SND's catalogue. The entry also links to relevant documents that were provided together with the data, e.g. technical reports and variable lists. Data deposited with SND will be possible to order or download from SND's catalogue, according to accessibility conditions stated in the agreement.

When the data are published they are also given a persistent identifier, called a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), which increases the searchability and citeability of the data. In addition to becoming visible in DataCite and the Web of Science, some data will also be made searchable in more subject-specific international portals, such as the CESSDA portal. Questions and variables can also be made searchable through SND's questions and variables data collection.

For additional information on how SND manages deposited research data please refer to How it works.