

## SWEDISH NATIONAL DATA SERVICES (SND), A NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH DATA

Swedish National Data Service was established on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 by the Swedish Research Council. The organisation is hosted by the University of Gothenburg and financed by the Swedish Research Council together with the University of Gothenburg. Through its origins in the SSD (Swedish Social science Data Service), SND has today more than 30 years of experience in, among others, documenting, disseminating and updating digital data. SND is part of an international research infrastructure where, along with other data archives, it contributes to the technical development of standards, methods and tools for documentation aiming to increase the availability of research data. Data archives such as SND enable preservation of data, access to and dissemination of data for secondary research. The archive can also give support for data management to the researchers and projects.

The documentation of projects provided by the researchers is essential for SND. The creation of a Data Management Plan (DMP) will make this easier. This formal document outlines all aspects of what happens to the data during and after the project, and this makes the life easier for the researcher in the long term. A DMP increases research efficiency, ensuring that the data are in a correct format. But it also makes sure that the data are well organized and well annotated. It increases the research efficiency for other researchers, since a well annotated material is so much easier to understand. With a DMP it will also be easier to illustrate to any new member of the research team the purpose, who shall do what, where, when, and how, but also to manage and analyse data, especially if some researchers are working on the same material.

There are several online guides and tools that can be used when writing a DMP. These guides/tools are frameworks for the DMP document. One important thing to remember is that the DMP is a living document that can and should be adapted to the specific project.

Upon project completion, data shall be published in order to simplify the researcher's life by enabling an archive to house and disseminate data. The archive's trained staff is available to provide user support and thus the researcher can focus on his/her research instead of responding to any requests. An archive continually adheres to the prevailing standards and practices for long-term preservation. By depositing the data the researcher can be sure that the data will be curated and handled according to the best practices in digital preservation and therefore will be available in the long term. Making

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data available allows researchers to demonstrate their continued use after the initial research project is completed. All indications are pointed to the future value for a researcher to demonstrate a continued use of data.

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