

Policy for research data management at Mid Sweden University

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Responsible function: University Library

Administrator: Anders Danielsson

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Period of validity: Until further notice

Latest review: 2022-10-07

Summary: The policy describes Mid Sweden University's aims and principles for research data management and open access to research data. The policy is complemented by guidelines.

Previous versions: -

Policy for research data management at Mid Sweden University

The purpose of the policy is to describe Mid Sweden University's aims and principles, delineation of responsibilities and intended support structure for research data management and open access to research data. The policy is complemented by guidelines.

The Swedish Research Council describes research data as digital information that has been collected for analysis for a scientific purpose. Examples of such research data are results from experiments and measurements, observations from field work, statistics, survey responses, interviews, and images.¹ The policy is limited to the management of research data that has been collected or created to be analyzed for a scientific purpose and which forms the basis of the results and conclusions that the research generates. The policy does not cover publishing and utilisation of results or conclusions of research.

The development both nationally and internationally is that more actors strive for and demand that research data should be open access. The policy is based on *Commission Recommendation (EU) 2018/790 of 25 April 2018 on access to and preservation of scientific information*; The Swedish Government's two latest research proposals *Knowledge in collaboration – for societal challenges and reinforced competitiveness (prop. 2016/17:50)*, *Research, freedom, future – knowledge and innovation for Sweden (prop. 2020/21:60)*; The Swedish Research Council's *Proposal for National Guidelines for Open Access to Scientific Information (2015)* and the Swedish University and Higher Education Association's *Recommendation regarding governance documents for research data (REK 2019:3)*.

All research data within Mid Sweden University's field of operations shall be reliable and shall be handled in a legal, accurate and information secure manner and considering good research practice. Research data shall be

¹ Swedish research council report [Öppen tillgång \(open access\) till forskningsdata – en omvärldsbeskrivning 2014](#)

organized and handled in accordance with current legislation, research ethical principles and the University's governance documents.

Mid Sweden University is the principal research institution for the research conducted by staff at the university. This means that research data that employees at the university collect or create, as a rule, belongs to Mid Sweden University. The individual researcher is responsible for ensuring that research data is handled in an appropriate manner in accordance with good research practice. As a general rule, the rights to share and reuse research data shall not be transferred to commercial operators or scientific publishers.

Access to research data shall follow the principle *as open as possible and as closed as necessary*. Research data should be published open access whenever possible. Access to research data may be restricted by, for example, rules in applicable legislation, research ethical considerations or agreements with funders or other partners.

Overall, this means that Mid Sweden University participates in the development towards an open science system.

Mid Sweden University's ambition is to follow the national direction, which means that research data management must, as far as possible, comply with the FAIR principles to improve accessibility and facilitate reuse. The basis of the FAIR principles is that publicly funded research should be as accessible and useful as possible. FAIR stands for research data to be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.² An important aspect to meet the FAIR principles, including research data that cannot be made open access, is to create and maintain relevant metadata.

Mid Sweden University will build an infrastructure that supports and enables proper management, storage, accessibility, and preservation of research data. The infrastructure will be continuously developed.

² *Fair-principles*: <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>