

Practice Abstract #46

Tips for the FAIR management of your digital data outputs/knowledge objects

Are you at the start, middle, or at the end of your research project and planning to develop knowledge objects for your project?

Here are a few tips to make your knowledge objects Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR). They will enhance the impact of your work by making it easier for people to find, access and reuse your data in the future – it can also help you! Data which is not properly documented is much more difficult to interpret, communicate or share.

Tip # 1: Prepare a Data Management Plan (DMP) – this is a living document in which project partners specify what kinds of data they will create or use, and how they will process, store and archive them.

Tip # 2: Add human and machine-readable metadata - to make project data or knowledge objects FAIR they need necessary information called metadata to be associated with them. This can include the type of knowledge object, keywords, author, references to unique persistent identifiers (e.g. DOIs and URLs), user licensing, codes for awarded grants, etc.

Tip # 3: Share your knowledge objects on a trustworthy and FAIR data repository - choose a repository that i) assigns a persistent identifier to your knowledge object; ii) attaches metadata according to standard metadata schemas; iii) has a shared usage license, and; iv) provides access to the knowledge object or its metadata via an open and standard communication protocol.

The pilot EU FarmBook (<https://eufarmbook.eu>) is one such platform that has been developed by the EUREKA project (<https://www.h2020eureka.eu/>) for making the results of EU-funded research and innovation projects in food, agriculture and forestry more widely accessible.

Read more about the FAIR principles here: www.nature.com/articles/sdata201618.

