

SETAC Journals Data Transparency Policy

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Preamble

SETAC promotes open data as data that meet that [FAIR principles](#): Findable; Accessible; Interoperable; and Reusable. SETAC firmly believes that the availability of digital data and calculation tools enriches any publication, clarifies the research, and most importantly, allows for novel analyses, interpretations, or re-analyses by the scientific community, thereby maximizing the benefits of the science. SETAC believes that data and calculation tools should be accessible and preserved, at a minimum; discoverable and freely available, at the optimum. SETAC considers data as digital information that is generated and analyzed during a study, and calculation tools as mathematical or logical algorithms used to analyze and compute derived values from data.

As a first step in implementing a full Data Transparency Policy, starting in 2015, both SETAC journals—*Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* (ET&C) and *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management* (IEAM)— have required authors to provide a Data Accessibility Statement upon submission.

Data Accessibility Statement - Specific Guidelines for Authors

The Data Accessibility Statement clarifies whether the data and associated metadata are available through an online repository or supplemental files, are available from the authors or a third party, or are unavailable with reasoning (i.e., proprietary, legal implications). Consideration should be given and care should be taken to ensure that the data are user-friendly.

Authors have several options for making data accessible. They can deposit data in 1) public repositories, 2) as supplemental data or supporting information, or 3) provide it to the editor and the reviewers during review, and to readers upon request. As an incentive, the SETAC journals have adopted Open Research Badges, which were created by the Center for Open Research. The badges are visual icons appearing at the top of published articles that certify an open practice was followed. Digitally shareable data that are publicly available on a permanent open access repository will qualify a paper for an open research badge.

Public Repositories: We encourage authors to deposit their data on permanent open access repositories because the data are searchable, available, and citable (assigned a

digital object identifier [DOI]). The SETAC journals Data Accessibility Statement requires that the name of the repository along with a weblink, DOIs, or accession numbers for the datasets are disclosed when data are deposited in a public repository. For a list of registered repositories, we refer authors to the [Register Of Research Data Repositories](https://www.re3data.org/) <https://www.re3data.org/>.

Supplemental Data or Supporting information: Though not ideal, data could be made available as supporting information. ET&C and IEAM publish data, associated metadata, and calculation tools as supplemental data free of charge, in their original, unedited form when submitted with the manuscript. Supplemental data files are identified in the journal's table of contents and on the first page of the manuscript. In a few instances, for some specific fields of study, SETAC may provide guidelines of ideal data or minimum requirements to include to fully support open data. Open research badges will not be available to authors submitting data as supporting information, which is neither searchable nor citable.

Available upon request: Where the data are only available upon request, the reasons for the restriction must be articulated.

Exceptions: Where authors cannot publicly share data for propriety reasons, an exception to this policy can be made. Requests for exceptions to making data available should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief. Requests will be considered but could be grounds for rejection.

All data, including proprietary data, **must** be made available to the editor and the reviewers during the review process. The editor(s) and reviewers will keep such data in confidence.

The editorial office staff will contact the authors of a paper if a reader alerts them that the data has ceased to be accessible on the stated repository, or the authors have failed to respond to data requests, or they have declined to share their data when it was "available upon request." If that is not resolved to the satisfaction of the editorial office staff, an editorial note of concern will be published and link to the original article, alerting readers that the author has been unwilling to adhere to SETAC's open data policy.

To assist authors ensure that all data is reported, we have compiled some resources on the [SETAC Open Science](#) webpage.