

Belmont Forum Data Policy and Principles

The **Belmont Forum** adopts this data policy and the following principles to widen access to data and promote its long-term preservation in global change research; help improve data management and exploitation; coordinate and integrate disparate organizational and technical elements; fill critical global e-infrastructure gaps; share best practices; and foster new data literacy.

The **Belmont Forum** recognizes that significant advances in open access to data have been achieved and implementation of this policy and these principles requires support by a highly skilled workforce. The **Belmont Forum** recommends a broad-based training and education curriculum as an integral part of research programs and encourages researchers to be aware of, and plan for, the costs of data intensive research. The **Belmont Forum's** ambition is that this policy and these principles will take positive steps toward establishing a global, interoperable e-infrastructure based on cost-effective solutions that can help enable actionable and societally beneficial science.

Data should be:

- **Discoverable** through catalogues and search engines
- **Accessible** as open data by default, and made available with minimum time delay
- **Understandable** in a way that allows researchers—including those outside the discipline of origin—to use them
- **Manageable and protected from loss** for future use in sustainable, trustworthy repositories

The Belmont Forum and its members will support and promote this data policy and principles with the intent of making these data principles enforceable over time.