

# Data papers as documentation of research processes and practices

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## **STRUCTURED ABSTRACT**

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### **Aim of your contribution**

This paper reports preliminary results of an on-going study of data papers, a fairly recently introduced type of journal paper designed for documenting and instigating the publishing of research data sets. The aim of the paper is to provide new knowledge on how research processes and practices are described in a set of archaeological data papers selected for analysis.

### **Value of your contribution**

The reported study complements the earlier literature on data papers (e.g., Schöpfel et al. 2019; Kembellec et al., 2021; Jiao & Darch, 2021) and provides new knowledge on data papers with a particular focus on how research processes and practices are reported in the published papers. Earlier studies show that this information is crucial to the usability of datasets (Faniel 2013; Huvila, 2022). An improved understanding of how datasets are documented and of what data publishing researchers consider as relevant to report of their practices is helpful in understanding present data documentation and reuse practices, needs and expectations of what is adequate documentation, and to inform development of data documentation, standards, data repositories and research data management services and practices.

### **Research outline**

The paper is empirically based on an on-going study of data papers published in the Journal of Open Archaeology Data (JOAD) and Internet Archaeology, two major journals publishing data papers relating to archaeology. Altogether (N=) 76 articles published in the two journals between 2012 and 2021 were analysed using qualitative content analysis to identify patterns in how research practices and processes and decision making were described in the data.

The aim of the study is to provide new knowledge on how research processes and practices are described in a set of archaeological data papers selected for analysis.

The findings point to a diversity of strategies of how research processes are documented. Explaining factors include the type of data and research where the dataset is stemming from, cross-disciplinary influences from fields outside of archaeology, and the original purpose of data collection and whether it appears that the data was collected for sharing and publishing. The findings point to several possibilities to develop author guidelines for data papers and insights into why and what some types of datasets appear as easier to document than others.

The main limitation of the present study is that it is based on the analysis of a limited number of data papers from one domain only.

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