



News Release



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MEDIA CONTACT:

Meredith P. Goins, WDS Executive Director
mgoins2@utk.edu or 01-865-368-7980

WORLD DATA SYSTEM SIGNS ON AS A SUPPORTER OF THE BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION

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The [World Data System](#) (WDS), an affiliated body of the [International Science Council](#), has signed on as a supporter of the [Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information](#) (Barcelona Declaration).

As a membership organization comprising scientific data repositories and data-adjacent non-profit organizations, WDS's mission is to enhance the capabilities, impact, and sustainability of repositories by fostering a trusted community, working towards strengthening the scientific enterprise with high-quality data, and advocating for accessible data and transparent, reproducible science.

WDS [members](#) are required to agree to the WDS [Data Sharing Principles](#), which align with the Barcelona Declaration's call for openness of research information to be the new norm.

“WDS Data Sharing Principles require our member repositories to make data, metadata, and associated products fully and openly shared per international standards of ethical research conduct,” states Meredith Goins, Executive Director of the WDS.

The Barcelona Declaration, initially launched on April 16, 2024, contains four [commitments](#) for signatories:

1. We will make openness the default for the research information we use and produce
2. We will work with services and systems that support and enable open research information
3. We will support the sustainability of infrastructures for open research information
4. We will support collective action to accelerate the transition to openness of research information.

Since WDS is not an organization that provides funds or evaluates research like a university or foundation would, WDS signed on as a supporter, which is designated for those who provide data, services, and infrastructure.

To achieve the desired change needed in the research information landscape, the Barcelona Declaration created a [roadmap](#) forward, including the establishment of seven working groups. Goins will represent WDS in Working Group 5 (WG5), which focuses on sustaining infrastructure over the long term, aiming to build a bridge between the interests of those who are expected to pay and those who need resources.

As Goins shared, “Sustainability means more than having funding to keep a data repository or other infrastructure, such as shared computing resources and lab equipment, available. It also means having human capacity, such as workforce development and hiring, publicly accessible plans that detail risk mitigation, business continuity, and disaster recovery, as well as capacity building practices which include enhancing the discoverability of data, strengthening data governance, while also improving data infrastructure.”

To learn more about the World Data System or the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information, please contact Meredith P. Goins, WDS Executive Director at mgoins2@utk.edu or 01-865-368-7980.

About the World Data System

Founded in 2008, the World Data System (WDS) is an affiliated body of the International Science Council (ISC). Its mission is to enhance the capabilities, impact, and sustainability of its member repositories and data services by fostering trusted communities of scientific data repositories. The WDS also aims to strengthen the entire lifecycle of data management, ensuring that high-quality data supports first-class research output. Additionally, it advocates for accessible data along with transparent and reproducible science.

The World Data System International Program Office (WDS-IPO) is hosted by the University of Tennessee at the [University of Tennessee Oak Ridge Innovation Institute](#), located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This work is supported by a cooperative agreement (DE-SC0021915) with the [U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science](#).

About the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information

The Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information was prepared by a group of over 25 research information experts, representing organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, as well as organizations that provide research information infrastructures. The group met in Barcelona, Spain, in November 2024, at a workshop hosted by the SIRIS Foundation. In January 2025, the Centre for Science and Technology Studies at Leiden University, Crossref, and the SIRIS Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide financial support to the organization for three years, until December 31, 2027.

Contact Bianca Kramer, Executive Director of the Barcelona Declaration Secretariat, bianca.kramer@barcelona-declaration.org for more information.

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Graphics available: Logos, headshots