

WDS response to ESIP Author Guidelines for Publishing Open Research Using Physical Samples

Deadline: 19 December 2025

Overview:

Please use this form to provide comments on the resource: [Author Guidelines for Publishing Open Research Using Physical Samples](#) for possible ESIP endorsement. You can also view the [proposal submitted to ESIP's Program Committee](#) from members of the ESIP community.

ESIP Partner Assembly Members (representatives from any of ESIP's 190+ partner organizations) may comment for up to 30 days (November 20-December 19, 2025) on the proposed endorsement, including the proposal and the resource itself. Comments are welcome, but not required. Following the 30-day comment period, a vote will be held.

Response:

Please provide your comment(s). If referencing a certain part of the resource, please be specific about which section you are referring to.

Overall, the World Data System is highly supportive of an ESIP endorsement for these author guidelines for research publications that use physical samples. The history of work described in the endorsement applications demonstrates due diligence and extensive community inputs. The use cases are straightforward and representative. By following this guidance, it is evident that researchers will enhance their research integrity, traceability and reuse. Below, we provide a few minor suggested improvements for the guidance document.

Introduction:

- First sentence - is environmental science research inclusive of planetary sciences (we would assume so, but perhaps that should be more explicit)?



- Third paragraph - is there justification that sample citation increases equity? Reliability and cost-effectiveness seem justifiable from the guidance, but equity doesn't appear to be substantiated.

Step 2c: This step should also mention cross-checks to ensure that the sample PIDs reference one another in their respective metadata (parent/child relationships, as articulated in the Appendix B - 2a and 2c).

Step 2d: Examples are not provided, as they are for 2a-c. Perhaps there are examples like seawater samples that are completely processed onboard a research vessel (e.g., for measuring oxygen saturation or chlorophyll).

Step 3:

- Example 3-2: Excellent example, as the DataCite metadata record (downloaded from <https://commons.datacite.org/doi.org/10.26022/ieda/112300>) clearly includes the IGSN ids in the relationship section as dataset references.
- Example 3-3: The link for the BioProject is not properly working. There seems to be a typo at the end - it probably should be corrected to <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK169438/>.

Appendix C - Note 4: It would be advisable to add another statement like "When selecting a data repository for deposit, refer to guidance available from your institution, funder or research community."