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Glossary

Attribution	Highlighting the creator/publisher of some data to acknowledge their efforts, conferring reputation.
Big data	Very large data sets that may be analysed computationally to reveal patterns, trends and associations.
Citation	Providing a link or reference to the data itself, in order to communicate provenance or drive discovery.
Clinical summary report	Integrated full report of an individual study of any therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic agent conducted on patients.
Data	Reinterpretable representation of information in a formalised manner suitable for communication, interpretation or processing (open archival information system definition).
Database	A collection of factual information held in electronic form.
Data breach	The loss, theft or other unauthorised access to data containing sensitive personal information that results in the potential compromise of the confidentiality or integrity of the data.
Data sharing plan	A brief description of how research data collected in research projects will be distributed and shared with others having a valid purpose for access to the data.
Data linking	A method of exposing and connecting data on the Web from different sources.
Data matching	Bringing together data from different sources, comparing it and possibly combining it, provided a common link can be found to interconnect at least one field in the datasets.
Data mining	Automated analytical techniques that work by copying existing electronic information—for instance, articles in scientific journals and other works, and analysing the data they contain for patterns, trends and other useful information.
Data noise	Also called noisy data, these are unwanted fields or information (such as duplicate entries) that degrades the quality of data signals.
Data object	An identifiable data item with data elements, metadata and an identifier (definition from the FAIR principles).
Data reuse	Any subsequent use of the original data by someone other than the originator(s).
Data signal	As opposed to data noise, this refers to meaningful data patterns that can be gleaned from data. The strength of the data signal increases by removing noise.
Data sharing	The practice of making data from scientific research available for secondary uses.
Data sharing plan	A brief description of how research data collected in research projects will be distributed and shared with others having a valid purpose for access to the data.
Data use	The first data use is by an individual or research team that originally gathered or collated the data. If the data originator(s) use(s) the same dataset for any later purpose, relating to the original project or not, that also counts as a 'data use'. See also 'data reuse'.
Gold open access	Providing free and permanent access to the final version of an article immediately after publication, and for everyone.
Green open access	Also referred to as self-archiving, is the practice of placing a version of an author's manuscript into a repository, making it freely accessible for everyone.
Information	Any type of knowledge that can be exchanged. In an exchange, information is represented by data.
Informed consent	The process in which a patient learns about and understands the purpose, benefits and potential risks of a medical or surgical intervention, including clinical trials, and then agrees to receive the treatment or participate in the trial.
Metadata	Structured information that describes, explains, locates, or otherwise makes it easier to retrieve, use, or manage an information resource. (National Information Standards Organisation).
Open access	Refers to free, unrestricted online access to research outputs such as journal articles and books. OA content is open to all, with no access fees.
Open data	Data that can be freely used, shared and built-on by anyone, anywhere, for any purpose (Open Knowledge Foundation).
Open science	Transparent and accessible scientific knowledge, whether as publications or data, that is freely shared and developed through collaborative networks.
Patient level data	The individual data separately recorded for each participant in a clinical study.
Raw data (or source data)	Unprocessed data sourced directly from research subjects or harvested by scientific equipment. In the context of clinical trials, raw data are observations about individual participants used by the investigators.

Reproducibility	In general terms, reproducibility involves replicating research experiments or verifying the research results by reusing the original data and following the same data methods. There is no shared understanding of this term among scientists.
Semantic data	Data tagged with metadata and can be used to derive the relationships between data.
Sponsored research	A research project commissioned by a private sector entity from a publicly funded research organisation.
Underlying data	Research data underlying the findings published in scientific publications.