What is openICPSR?
openICPSR is a research data-sharing service for the social and behavioral sciences. It enables the public to access research data without charge — or in the case of restricted-use data, for nominal charge.

What is unique about openICPSR?
openICPSR provides:
• Immediate distribution on an established network of over 740 research institutions that has powerful search tools and a data catalog indexed by major search engines
• The reliability of a trusted, sustainable organization that is building on over 50 years of experience storing research data
• Metadata review by professional social and behavioral science librarians
• The ability to accept and disseminate sensitive and/or restricted-use data in the public-access environment

Why is ICPSR launching a public-access data-sharing service?
openICPSR was developed to assist in meeting requirements for public access to federally funded data. It can ensure data depositors fulfill public-access requirements found in grant and contract RFPs.

What are openICPSR's deposit options?
1. Self Deposit: Enables research scientists to deposit data on demand and provide immediate public access. Depositors prepare all files and metadata. Once data are published, depositors get a DOI and a data citation; openICPSR conducts a metadata review to maximize exposure in ICPSR’s catalog. Package fee is $600.
2. Professional Curation: Enables a research scientist to tap all aspects of ICPSR’s curation services including full metadata generation and a bibliography search, stat package conversion, and user support. The fee to distributors depends upon data complexity.
3. Full Topic Archive: Enables an agency, foundation, or large project with many datasets to fully fund the dissemination of its data. While data undergo treatment as in the Professional Curation option, the Topic Archive option includes premium services such as dedicated staff specialists, an exclusive website and customized data tools, and acquisitions and compliance reporting. Project managers, officers, and agencies should call for a proposal.

What happens to data deposits?
openICPSR provides bitstream preservation and public access for at least 10 years. Depositors can provide further funding to extend preservation and public access. Thereafter, unfunded deposits transfer to the ICPSR membership.

Why is there a charge for deposits?
There are paid curation professionals involved and storage costs for multiple copies to ensure data are kept safe. openICPSR’s deposit fees sustain the service, assuring access to data.

How will openICPSR accept and disseminate restricted-use data?
• Phase I — In early 2014, openICPSR will accept restricted-use data for deposit. Researchers will receive DOIs and related citations upon deposit. The restricted-use data will not be disseminated until Phase II.
• Phase II — In late 2014, openICPSR will begin to disseminate restricted-use data via its Virtual Data Enclave; data users will be charged an administration fee to access restricted-use data.

Can researchers still deposit with ICPSR?
Absolutely. Depositors can donate their data to the ICPSR membership for curation at no fee. Those data are accessible to the membership.

How do ICPSR members benefit from openICPSR?
openICPSR meets the needs of member data depositors who require public access yet desire to share and preserve their data with a trusted social and behavioral sciences repository.

ICPSR members using openICPSR also receive:
• 10X the storage space for openICPSR deposits
• Access to selected fully curated openICPSR deposits

ICPSR members also continue to receive:
• Access to over 65,000 datasets
• Access to fully curated datasets with professional metadata, stats package conversion, standardized codebook, variable-level search, bibliography search, and other data tools
• Teaching and instructional tools
• Discounted tuition for ICPSR Summer Program courses