Data Seal of Approval (DSA)
www.datasealofapproval.org

Objectives
• Guarantee the long-term usability of research data
• Promote the goal of durable digital archiving in general
• Encourage transparency with respect to archival policies and procedures

Project Leaders
• Initiated by DANS (The Netherlands)
• Established by a number of institutions committed to long-term archiving of research data
• Board members assigning the Data Seal
  • Alfred Wegener Institute (Germany)
  • CINES (France)
  • DANS (The Netherlands)
  • ICPSR (USA)
  • Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (The Netherlands)
  • NESTOR (Germany)
  • United Kingdom Data Archive (United Kingdom)

Impact of the Data Seal
• Displaying the DSA logo demonstrates that the repository is considered a reliable long-term archive
• The DSA indicates that the repository complies with the 16 DSA guidelines, as determined through an assessment

Procedures
Completing the DSA self-assessment form is the starting point, and the form is then sent to the Editorial Board for peer review. When granted the Data Seal, the repository displays the DSA logo on its Web site along with the assessment and other DSA documents. There is no audit, no certification: just a review on the basis of trust.

Data Seal of Approval Guidelines
1. The data producer deposits the research data in a data repository with sufficient information for others to assess the scientific and scholarly quality of the research data and compliance with disciplinary and ethical norms.

2. The data producer provides the research data in formats recommended by the data repository.

3. The data producer provides the research data together with the metadata requested by the data repository.

4. The data repository has an explicit mission in the area of digital archiving and promulgates it.

5. The data repository uses due diligence to ensure compliance with legal regulations and contracts.

6. The data repository applies documented processes and procedures for managing data storage.

7. The data repository has a plan for long-term preservation of its digital assets.

8. Archiving takes place according to explicit workflows across the data life cycle.

9. The data repository assumes responsibility from the data producers for access to and availability of the digital objects.

10. The data repository enables the users to utilize the research data and refer to them.

11. The data repository ensures the integrity of the digital objects and the metadata.

12. The data repository ensures the authenticity of the digital objects and the metadata.

13. The technical infrastructure explicitly supports the tasks and functions described in internationally accepted archival standards like OAIS.

14. The data consumer complies with access regulations set by the data repository.

15. The data consumer conforms to and agrees with any codes of conduct that are generally accepted in higher education and research for the exchange and proper use of knowledge and information.

16. The data consumer respects the applicable licences of the data repository regarding the use of the research data.

Information
www.datasealofapproval.org
info@datasealofapproval.org