

## WHAT IS SODHA?

The *Social Sciences and Digital Humanities Archive* is a brand new digital archive, freely available for Belgian researchers active in the fields of social sciences and digital humanities. In light of the international trend towards opening up research results, SODHA offers Belgian researchers the opportunity to safely store and share the results of their work. Furthermore, the platform encourages and facilitates deposits in accordance with the FAIR-principles: findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

To researchers active in social sciences and digital humanities, SODHA offers an overview of available (open) research data in Belgium, as well as multiple options for data retention and for opening up their valuable datasets. Data stored in SODHA are safely backed up and preserved.

SODHA\* is led by data experts from the State Archives of Belgium and financed by the Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO). Research Groups DEMO (UCLouvain) and BRISPO (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) offer support for the further development of the archive.

\* SODHA is the official Belgian representative in the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA).

## Sodha

What is the Social Sciences and Digital Humanities Archive?



### NEW NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE

SODHA is a disciplinary repository facilitating the findability, accessibility, interoperability and reuse of social sciences and digital humanities.



### FREE ONLINE DATA CATALOGUE

SODHA provides a single access point for a variety of datasets from different data providers. The online platform allows you to discover new data without cost.



### SAFE AND EASY DATA PRESERVATION

SODHA offers long-term, secure data storage by experts without cost, allowing researchers to easily follow their Data Management Plans and fulfil grant obligations.



### FREEDOM FOR DATA DEPOSITORS

When entrusting their research data in SODHA, data depositors remain responsible for their data. Depositors are free to choose open or restricted access and have different data reuse options. Removing deposited data is possible.



### LEGAL STANDARDS AND SUPPORT

SODHA archives the data in accordance with (international) law, standards and good practices. Institutional deposit agreements are possible.

## Sodha

Answered in seven questions

1

What type of data repository?

SODHA is a **domain-specific repository**. SODHA focuses on research data from the **social sciences and digital humanities**. Interdisciplinary datasets related to these domains are also welcome. By being domain-specific, SODHA makes your research extra visible and easy to find to colleagues from your discipline.

2

How much does it cost?

Data users can browse the SODHA platform and deposit datasets **without costs**. Open Access Datasets can be accessed and reused without costs. Restricted Access Datasets are under the competence of the data owner/depositor, who may stipulate a costs for the access and reuse.

3

Does it offer long-term storage?

Yes, research data are deposited in SODHA for an indefinite period. Removing deposited data is possible at any time. SODHA archives the data in accordance with (international) law, standards and good practices.

4

Does it suit your data needs?

All research data from the social sciences and digital humanities can be stored in SODHA. The powers of decision remain with the depositor. Depositors are **free to select one of the five access and reuse regimes** and specify the preferred license. The **SODHA guide** provides an overview of the legal requirements for data protection, as well as a list of the accepted file formats.

5

What will happen to your data?

Once deposited, team SODHA will perform minor security checks and publish the record for your dataset online. SODHA automatically assigns a **digital object identifier (doi)** to the deposited database. SODHA will now create a separate **landing page** for your database with the metadata publicly available. Depending on the chosen access and reuse regime, the landing page will include the open access data files or more information on the access procedure. Thanks to our membership to the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, your metadata will also be findable in the **CESSDA Data Catalogue**.

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Is SODHA certified?

As a part of the Belgian State Archives, SODHA follows the State Archives principles and is subjected to the same strict criteria for data archiving. Team SODHA is currently preparing the application for the Core Trust Seal.

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Where can I find more information?

More information is available via [sodha.be](http://sodha.be). Team SODHA is happy to answer any further questions you may have ([sodha@arch.be](mailto:sodha@arch.be)).

## WHY SODHA?

### 1. Ensure a safe deposit of your research data.

SODHA aims at long-term data storage. Uploading your data in SODHA prevents your valuable work of remaining unnoticed or getting lost. Therefore, SODHA can be of value when you are looking for sound data management. The repository has been developed to help you establish a **data management plan**. Such a carefully drafted plan is essential for efficient research and can be useful for future funding applications!

The main characteristics of your deposited datasets are clearly described in the **metadata** on SODHA. You are free to provide personal descriptions related to the metadata. SODHA stipulates limited mandatory fields, including your name, contact information, possible future publications related to the dataset and a short description of the data collection. Not 100% sure about uploading the full dataset yet? SODHA also accepts 'uploads' of only metadata. This will help build an overview of data collection and expertise of Belgian-researchers.

SODHA ensures a deposit according to the **FAIR principles for scientific datamanagement and stewardship**: findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable. Other researchers can easily find your datasets via the SODHA website or via search engines. You choose how accessible, interoperable and reusable your data will be.

### 2. Facilitate the potential reuse of your research data.

Each dataset available through SODHA receives a **Digital Object Identifier**, more commonly known as a DOI, which enables simple and transparent references to your dataset possible. SODHA allows targeted searches to specific datasets using DOIs. Furthermore, the use of DOI is a good way to validate your data collection efforts. You -as the owner of the dataset can be cited in publications that build on your deposited dataset.

### 3. Ensure international visibility for your work and build a network beyond your university!

Your research (meta)data are not only visible on the SODHA website, but also in the international **CESSDA\*\* data catalogue** (available on [www.datacatalogue.cessda.eu](http://www.datacatalogue.cessda.eu)).

\*\* CESSDA stands for: Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives. CESSDA brings together 22 social science data archives across Europe, with the aim of promoting the results of social science research and supporting national and international research and cooperation.

### Why use the Social sciences and (Digital) Humanities Archive?

#### VALIDATION OF RESEARCH

All deposited datasets receive a digital object identifier, enhancing the visibility and citation of research(ers).

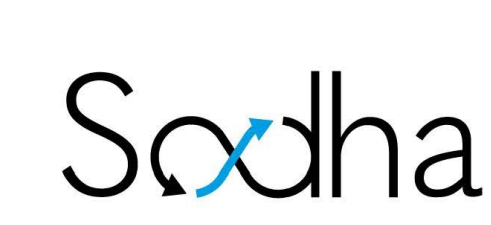


#### FREE BASIC SERVICES

SODHA is funded by Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) and charges no costs for the finding, accessing and depositing data. Depositors can charge for the access and reuse of their datasets.

#### SAFE LONG-TERM STORAGE

Your deposited datasets will be stored long-term by expert archivists using state-of-the-art methods

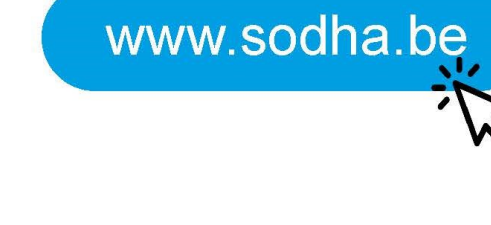


#### RESEARCH CREATIVITY

Learn from previous data collection efforts; reuse existing data in new ways; extend your scientific network; etc.

#### ONLINE ACCESS POINT

SODHA is always open. You can browse data from different Belgian scientific institutions 24-7.

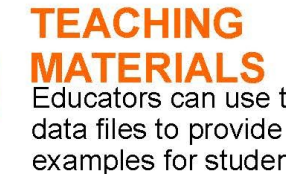


#### RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY

A fast overview of the available datasets helps researchers avoid duplication of effort.

#### DMP & FUNDING

SODHA is useful for the creation of efficient Data Management Plans and the fulfillment of funding requirements.

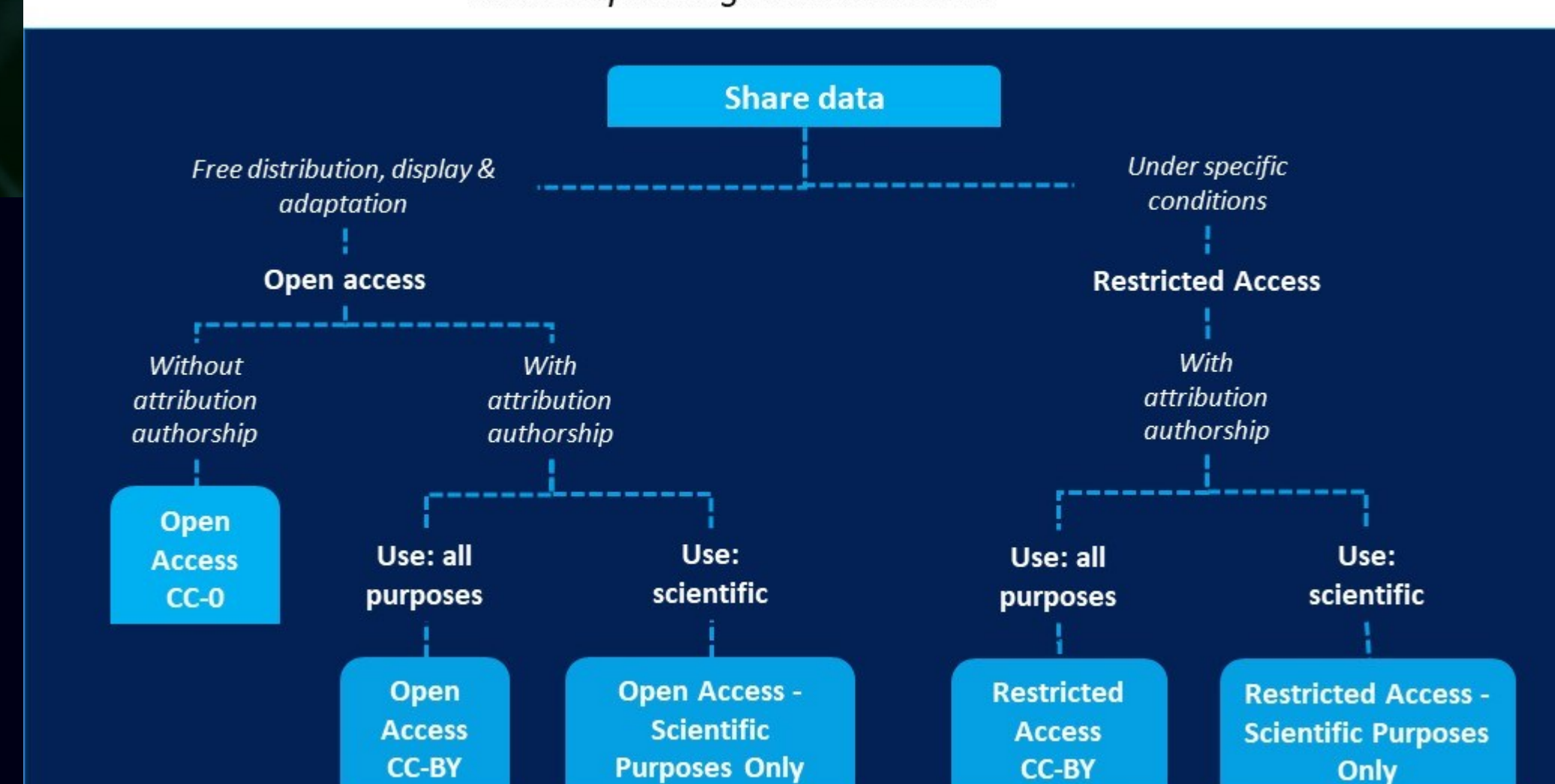


#### TEACHING MATERIALS

Educators can use the open access data files to provide real-life examples for students.

### Choosing an access and reuse regime

When depositing data in SODHA



## CHECKLIST for sharing your data



Certain types of research data are not (immediately) ready to be shared in open access. This checklist helps you identify data issues and choose the right access and use regime in SODHA.

#### NO personally identifiable information

Make sure your data do not contain information which may (in)directly identify living natural persons. SODHA does not allow datasets with respondents' real names, addresses and other contact information. Doublecheck that respondents cannot be identified using a combination of variables (e.g. Job title: Mayor; Postcode: 1234). Confidential data (e.g. collected with a non-disclosure agreement) should not be deposited.

#### Sensitive data?

Does sharing your data have ethical and societal implications, e.g. with regard to harming vulnerable groups? Consider depositing your data under 'Restricted Access CC-BY' or 'Restricted Access - Scientific Purposes Only'.

#### Copyright and database rights?

Check if your data or data format (e.g. audiovisual data) have specific copyright or database rights. If so, ask permission from all rights owners.

#### Third-party data?

Does your dataset consist of or contain data supplied by a third party (e.g. government agency)? Check your data contract whether you have permission to share the data or excerpts of the data (e.g. general processed data tables). Consider depositing your data under 'Open Access - Scientific Purposes Only'; 'Restricted Access CC-BY' or 'Restricted Access - Scientific Purposes Only' to comply with the third party's restrictions.

#### Data with commercial/economic potential?

Do you want to pursue commercial or economic valorization with your data? If so, consider depositing your data under 'Restricted Access CC-BY' or 'Restricted Access - Scientific Purposes Only' and specify an embargo period (Terms section: Availability Status)

## INTERESTED?

Check [www.sodha.be](http://www.sodha.be) or contact us:

[sodha@arch.be](mailto:sodha@arch.be)



#### SODHA TEAM

**Team Leader:**  
State Archives of Belgium



**Academic Partner:**  
Center for Demographic Research (UCLouvain)



**Academic Partner:**  
Brussels Institute for Social and Population Studies (VUB)



**Funding Agency:**  
Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)

