



For the Attention of Research and Academic Institutions

Preserve Research Data and Protect Integrity: Safeguard Knowledge for the Future

Research and academic institutions are urged to put measures in place to preserve scholarly outputs and maintain reproducibility, as unpublished data and legacy collections put research integrity at risk.

When data and scholarly outputs are not preserved, future researchers are unable to build on past work, resulting in delays to critical medical breakthroughs and technological innovations, and slowing solutions to global challenges like climate change. And when reproducibility fails, public confidence in science is eroded, fuelling scepticism about vaccines, climate science or other critical areas, ultimately impacting public health and safety.

Much research is publicly funded, and if results cannot be reproduced or verified, taxpayer money is being wasted on work that cannot be used, re-used or trusted. And where research integrity is compromised, there is the potential that flawed or unverified findings might influence public policy, healthcare decisions and education, leading to ineffective or even harmful decisions affecting everyday life.

A new version of the [Global 'Bit List' of Endangered Digital Materials](#), published today by the [Digital Preservation Coalition](#), confirms that [Unpublished Research Data](#) and [Legacy Research Web Collections](#) are Critically Endangered, with others such as [Research materials and outputs in museums and galleries](#) listed as Endangered, underscoring the urgency of digital preservation efforts to maintain research data integrity.

Describing digital preservation as a proven way to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary, William Kilbride, Executive Director for the Digital Preservation Coalition concludes that data loss is therefore a choice, not an accident:

“When research data is lost, we do not just lose files—we lose progress and the foundation of evidence-based discovery. Preserving data is essential to reproducibility, innovation and public confidence. Digital preservation ensures that today’s research remains the answer to tomorrow’s questions.”

The DPC’s *Global 'Bit List' of Endangered Digital Materials*—or the *Bit List*—is a powerful call to action from the global digital preservation community. It highlights the digital content most at risk of being lost, based on real-world conditions and expert insight. By clearly identifying both the urgency of the threat and the value of the content, the *Bit List* shines a spotlight on the digital materials that demand immediate attention to ensure their survival.

The Bit List entries relevant to protecting research data integrity are:

Critically Endangered

- [Correspondence and informal records of research](#)
- [Grey Literature](#)
- [Legacy Research Web Collections](#)
- [Unpublished Research Data](#)



- [Unpublished research data from government researchers](#)

Endangered

- [Semi-published research data](#)
- [Research materials and outputs in museums and galleries](#)

Vulnerable

- [Published research papers](#)
- [Published research data appended to journal articles](#)
- [Research Data Published through Repositories](#)