



Guidelines for Applying Licenses to Your Data

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Best Practices

- Select a commonly used license to ensure the maximum re-usability of your work.
- If your funder or institution has specific requirements about licenses, defer to their requirements.
- If they have no preference, consider a public domain dedication.
- Alternatively, if your discipline commonly uses a specific license, consider applying that license.
- To make re-use as likely as possible when you have options, choose a license which makes data available to the widest audience possible and allows the widest range of uses.

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- Public domain dedications have two major benefits. First, it makes data available to the widest audience possible and allows the widest range of uses. Secondly, when data requiring citations is blended with similarly licensed data, attribution stacking can occur and present issues.
- Two commonly used public domain dedications are the CC0 from Creative Commons and the Public Domain Dedication and License (PDDL) from Open Data Commons. PDDL is intended mainly for use with databases.