## Research Working Papers

# Safeguarding Research: A Review of Economics Journals' Preservation Policies for Published Code and Data Files

by: Courtney R. Butler, Brett D. Currier and Kira M. Lillard

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Although most economics journals recommend that researchers release code and data with their papers, almost no journals specify how or whether these files will be preserved for the future.

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For many years, economics researchers have discussed the importance of sharing code and data files to ensure replicability. The discussion, however, rarely includes questions about long-term access to those files. This paper looks in-depth at the code and data policies from top economics journals to understand the guidance provided to researchers regarding data sharing and asks if that guidance supports preservation of code and data files for access and use, long into the future. We used content analysis to review journal policies from 184 economics journals. We discovered that while most journals recommend code and data be released with papers and that a few journals recommend practices consistent with long-term preservation, almost no journals specifically or emphatically consider long-term preservation of those files.

JEL Codes: B40 (Economic Methodology: General); C80 (Data Collection and Data Estimation Methodology; Computer Programs: General); Y80 (Related Disciplines)

## Download Materials

Data file.

## Article Citations

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## Related Research

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# Authors

## Courtney R. Butler
## Data Management Strategist

Courtney R. Butler leads the Data Management Program as part of the Data Utility Office (DUO) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. She holds a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Rockhurst University and a Masters in Library Science from Indiana University Bloomington. She is DCAM Certified, a DAMA Certified Data Management Professional (CDMP), and a Prosci Certified Change Practitioner. Her research focuses on data management, data preservation, and research reproducibility.

## Brett D. Currier
## Digital Scholarship Librarian and Library Manager

Brett D. Currier is the Digital Scholarship Librarian and the Library Manager in Research Support Services (RSS) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.  He joined the Bank in July 2016 from the University of Texas at Arlington. He holds a BA in English from Kansas State University and an MS in Library Science and a JD, both from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.  His research focuses on supporting digital scholarship.

## Kira M. Lillard
## Technical Services Librarian

Kira M. Lillard is Technical Services Librarian in Research Support Services (RSS) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Prior to joining the Bank in April 2020, she was Digital Content Director at Ebeacon, helping build and market multi-function online catalogs. She holds a BA from The Colorado College, an MA in Asian Studies from the University of Hawai'i and an MLS from Emporia State University. Her research interests include data reproducibility, web accessibility, usability, and universal design.