



Research Working Papers

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

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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)

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Article Citations

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Related Research

- Chang, Andrew C., and Phillip Li. 2015. "Is Economics Research Replicable? Sixty Published Papers from Thirteen Journals Say 'Usually Not.'" Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, *Finance and Economics Discussion Series* no. 2015-083, October. Available at <https://doi.org/10.17016/FEDS.2015.083>.
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 - McCullough, B. D., Kerry Anne McGeary, and Teresa D. Harrison. 2008. "Do Economics Journal Archives Promote Replicable Research?" *The Canadian Journal of Economics*, vol. 41, no. 4, pp. 1406-1420. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25478330>.
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