



Our reference: 71153/240.1.2./DIR

BIRA-IASB Data Repository Policy v1.0

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This policy outlines the digital preservation strategy of the BIRA-IASB data repository, <https://data.aeronomie.be>. This strategy establishes the foundational principles of the repository and ensures transparency regarding the procedures used to preserve and provide access to the data within the repository.

This policy has been approved by the BIRA-IASB director general. Through this endorsement, the BIRA-IASB repository formally commits to adhering to the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles (Wilkinson et al., 2016), as well as established standards and best practices for data publication, curation, and long-term preservation.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this policy, please use data-contact@aeronomie.be

Content

- **Scope:** BIRA-IASB fields of research. All types of research artifacts. Content must not infringe on privacy or copyright laws, nor breach any confidentiality or non-disclosure agreements.
- **Status of research data:** Any status is accepted, from any stage of the research lifecycle.
- **Eligible depositors:** Only researchers and scientists affiliated with BIRA-IASB are permitted to deposit content.
In case the first author is not affiliated with BIRA-IASB, a BIRA-IASB member must take responsibility for the deposit and possess the appropriate rights to do so. Submission does not imply a transfer of ownership; all uploaded content remains the property of the original parties prior to submission.
- **Data file formats:** All formats are allowed, respecting the scope of the FAIR principles guidelines (Wilkinson et al., 2016).
- **Volume and size limitations:** There are no file size limitations. Larger datasets can be distributed directly and efficiently via a dedicated BIRA-IASB tool.
- **Data quality:** All information is provided on an “as-is” basis, without warranty of any kind, including without limitation the warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose and non-infringement.
Users shall hold BIRA-IASB free and harmless from any liability arising from the use of this information.

- **Metadata types and sources:** Metadata is stored internally at BIRA-IASB according to a structured, predefined schema. Metadata is exported in multiple standard formats, including DCAT-AP (Dcat, 2025).
- **Licenses:** In accordance with European research institute standards, the default license for BIRA-IASB is Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 (CC-BY, 2026). However, because certain records may require alternative licensing, the specific license is always referenced within the metadata.

Access and Reuse

- **Access to data objects:** Published dataset metadata is openly accessible worldwide via the data browser at <https://data.aeronomie.be>
Access to metadata and data files is provided via standard protocols including HTTPS, DCAT-AP and API tools.
- **Use and re-use of data objects:** The use and reuse of data objects are strictly governed by the specific license under which they were deposited.
- **Restricted Access:** Exceptional circumstances may require access to certain data to be restricted. In these instances, the accompanying metadata will explicitly detail the terms and justification for the restriction why.
- **Metadata access and reuse:** All repository metadata is licensed under the CC0 public domain dedication and is fully harvestable.

Removal

- **Revocation:** If you suspect a dataset violates repository policy, please promptly report the record's DOI to data-contact@aeronomie.be
- **Withdrawal:** If an uploaded research object must be withdrawn, the reasons will be detailed on a 'tombstone' page, displayed in its place. Withdrawal is an exceptional measure that can only be executed by the repository owner. It must be formally requested and fully justified by the original uploader. The original object's DOI will be permanently retained.

Longevity

- **Versions:** Data files are versioned; metadata is not. The original data content is never modified. Even in exceptional cases of withdrawal, the data files and records are preserved under the Long-Term Preservation (LTP) policy, unless the data cannot be preserved for legal reasons.
- **Replicas and file preservation:** All data files are stored in on premise BIRA-IASB storage facilities, in Bruxelles. Backups are performed every night to a different location.
- **Retention period:** Data objects will be retained for the active lifetime of the repository. Currently, this corresponds to the operational lifetime of the host institute, BIRA-IASB, which is a formal federal research institute of Belgium established in 1964. This retention period is guaranteed by the LTP policy.
- **Functional preservation:** Because data files fall directly within its specialized domain of research, BIRA-IASB actively ensures the long-term usability and understandability of all published data and metadata.

