




OUR
STRATEGIC
PLAN 2010-15

**UK • DATA
ARCHIVE**



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OUR MISSION

THE UK DATA ARCHIVE IS A LEADING CENTRE OF EXPERTISE IN DATA ARCHIVING IN THE UK

The Archive holds the largest collection of digital data in the social sciences and humanities in the UK and makes them available to the higher and further education sector and beyond for research, teaching and learning. Our mission is to maintain our leading role by continuously improving the quality and breadth of our data products and services in response to user needs and technological changes.

To this end we collaborate with national and international organisations to develop new data standards and tools. We also aim to build bridges between data creators and data users across different sectors and disciplines.

OUR CHALLENGES

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGES FACING THE ARCHIVE FALL UNDER THE FOLLOWING BROAD CATEGORIES:

- LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE
- PLANNING AND RESOURCES
- MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
- DATA SELECTION, ACQUISITION, INGEST AND PRESERVATION
- DATA ACCESS

Full discussion of these issues is available in our full Strategic Plan. Contact us for a copy.

OUR GOALS

TO DELIVER OUR MISSION AND MEET OUR STRATEGIC CHALLENGES THE ARCHIVE HAS SET ITSELF FIVE STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2010-15.

Associated with each strategic goal are a number of key objectives, subdivided by theme. The strategic goals are designed to consolidate the Archive's trusted repository status while maximising quality of service and impact of investment:

GOAL 01. PROMOTE BEST PRACTICE IN DATA CURATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

1. Curation

- Reinforce the Archive's status as an internationally trusted repository for data and centre of excellence
- In partnership with other national and international organisations, develop standards and policies for best practice in data curation

2. Collaboration

- Strengthen collaborations with other digital repositories and data organisations
- Build stronger relationships with researchers and other data creators

GOAL 02. IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND USE OF DATA

1. Access

- Increase open access to data while maintaining appropriate access control over more sensitive data via user authentication, registration and licensing
- Make user registration and licensing as straightforward as possible without compromising data security

2. Use

- Encourage the use of the Archive's data collections for top quality research
- Promote the social and economic impacts of research based on the Archive's collections

GOAL 03. RAISE STANDARDS IN DATA MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

1. Data management

- Strengthen relationships with data creators, providing 'best practice' advice in research data management

2. Data security

- Ensure relevant data security at all times
- Maintain the trust of data subjects by ensuring that relevant ethical and legal guidelines are followed and confidentiality is protected

GOAL 04. DRIVE ARCHIVAL INNOVATION

1. Collections

- Broaden the range of subject areas and data formats in the Archive's collection
- Promote the use and re-use of the Archive's data collection through developing teaching and learning resources and user training

2. Tools

- Develop and implement next-generation tools for improved resource discovery and data visualisation
- Improve internal workflows with enhanced tools for ingest, query tracking, security and preservation

GOAL 05. DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE IN ACCOUNTABILITY AND OPERATIONS

1. Governance

- Demonstrate effective and transparent governance arrangements
- Consolidate the Archive's position within the University of Essex

2. Funding

- Demonstrate value for money to all stakeholders
- Sustain funding sufficient to deliver the Archive's key strategic goals

3. Staff

- Encourage skills development for all staff, including engagement in operational research where desirable
- Provide continuous professional development to staff and nurture career progression
- Create a just and positive work environment for all staff

CONTACT DETAILS

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ENSURING CONTINUOUS ACCESS TO
HIGH QUALITY DATA IN THE SOCIAL
SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

WE ARE SUPPORTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
RESEARCH COUNCIL AND JOINT INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE