



# When is “FAIR” F.A.I.R.?

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“We’ve been FAIR  
since before there  
was a FAIR.”

HMM...

Open and  
F.A.I.R are *not*  
the same thing.

“OPEN” IS ABOUT DATA  
RIGHTS AND LICENSING.

“F.A.I.R.” IS ABOUT  
MECHANICS.

“FAIR” is primarily  
concerned with  
*programmatically*  
processing.

FAIR RECOGNIZES THAT DATA  
IS DIVERSE AND SCATTERED  
ACROSS CYBERSPACE.  
SOFTWARE PROCESSING  
LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD.



“F.A.I.R” is not a  
binary state.

FAIRNESS IS A SPECTRUM.  
THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS  
TO INCREASE FAIRNESS AND  
THEY CAN BE APPLIED  
INCREMENTALLY.

The FAIR Principles at [go-fair.org](https://go-fair.org)



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# Findability

If a user must know which specific archive's service to query to search for a data resource, the data are not *Findable*.

First Steps:

- ▶ Assign DOIs to data resources.
- ▶ Provide rich metadata in the DOI record.
- ▶ Include tagged metadata (schema.org, for example) on the landing page for the data resource.



# Accessibility

If the globally unique identifier (the DOI, e.g.) cannot be used to fetch the metadata for the data resource from the repository interface, the (meta)data are not *Accessible*.

First Steps:

- ▶ Implement a DOI retrieval option in the local interface.
- ▶ If the only interface(s) requires human interaction, prioritize API development.





# Interoperability

If a human must read a document to find or understand the metadata, the data are not *Interoperable*.

First Steps:

- ▶ Provide metadata in machine-readable formats.
- ▶ Use standard vocabularies defined by recognized authorities that are programmatically actionable (UAT keywords, for example) wherever possible.



# Reusability

If the metadata for the resource do not indicate the copyright holder and license, the data are not *Reusable*.

## First Steps:

- ▶ If the data are known to be in the worldwide public domain, indicate that clearly in the metadata.
- ▶ Provide *both* copyright holder and license in programmatically accessible metadata otherwise.
- ▶ Use standard digital licenses (CC licenses, e.g.) with formal references.



# Take-aways

- ▶ Open is good. FAIR is good. Open *and* FAIR is the goal.
- ▶ Increasing FAIRness can and should be an ongoing process.
- ▶ Do the easy things first.
- ▶ Seek assistance and support for the hard things.



Questions?

The FAIR Principles at [go-fair.org](https://go-fair.org)

