

# Memorandum of Understanding between ORCID and the ICSU World Data System

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Discoverability of scientific data and services is essential for supporting open research.

ORCID and the ICSU World Data System (hereinafter referred to as "ICSU-WDS") (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties") are not-for-profit organizations with related missions and are natural partners in the pursuit of various objectives with regard to the tracking, availability, and reuse of research data.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to state clearly the intention of ORCID and WDS to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in areas of mutual interest, and in particular to adopt identifiers and standards to manage access to, and reporting of, research outputs. This document is not legally binding.

1. ORCID ([orcid.org](https://orcid.org)) is an open and interdisciplinary community-based effort to provide a Registry of persistent identifiers for researchers, and processes and tools for embedding these identifiers into research systems and workflows.
2. The World Data System ([www.icsu-wds.org](https://www.icsu-wds.org)) is an Interdisciplinary Body of the International Council for Science (ICSU). ICSU World Data System supports the vision of universal and equitable access to scientific data and information by promoting universal and equitable access to, and long-term stewardship of, **quality-assured scientific data and data services, products, and information** covering a broad range of disciplines from the natural and social sciences, and humanities. ICSU-WDS aims at facilitating the scientific research endeavours under the ICSU umbrella by coordinating **trusted scientific data services** for the provision, use, and preservation of relevant datasets.
3. ORCID will become a Partner Member of ICSU-WDS and this membership will be acknowledged on the ICSU-WDS website as appropriate. As defined by the ICSU-WDS Scientific Committee (WDS-SC), a Partner Member is an 'organization that are not data stewards or data analysis services; but that contribute support or funding to ICSU-WDS and/or WDS Members'. As a Partner Member, ORCID shall participate in ICSU-WDS discussions and official meetings, and will be invited to comment on and contribute to ICSU-WDS Working Groups and activities on a voluntary basis.
4. ICSU-WDS will become an ORCID Partner and this will be acknowledged on the ORCID website as appropriate.
5. It is the intention of WDS to contribute to ORCID and to collaborate with its governing body to:
  - i. encourage the adoption of persistent identifiers for researchers, works, and organizations in research data systems, data management and deposit workflows, in particular by the implementation of the WDS Data Sharing Principles and WDS Certification of data repositories and services,
  - ii. build awareness on and encourage use of the ORCID Registry and APIs in the research data community

- iii. encourage WDS Members to embed tools into key research data workflows to enable machine readability and discoverability,
6. It is the intention of ORCID to contribute to ICSU-WDS and to collaborate with its governing body, the WDS-SC, to:
  - i. build awareness of ICSU-WDS, its Data Sharing Principles, and the recommendations of its Working Groups,
  - ii. investigate how WDS Core Certification may contribute to building trust in the ORCID Registry, and
  - iii. build awareness and encourage use of the WDS Core Certification of Data Repositories and Services in the research data community
7. To support these collective goals, ORCID and ICSU-WDS will engage in regular strategic conversations at the leadership level, support collaborations in developing use cases and policies, and explore options for coordinated communications regarding training and community engagement activities.
8. There will be no monetary exchange between ORCID and ICSU-WDS as pertains to this MOU or the activities described therein, for services or membership purposes. Both organizations will refrain from using each other's logos and trademarks to make direct financial profit without explicit authorization from the respective governing body.
9. Each Party shall have the right to review and approve this MOU prior to the release of any press release or similar communication about the nature of the relationship between the Parties.
10. This MoU will enter into force upon signature by both parties and will continue until either organization records its express wish to terminate it. If either Party terminates, the Parties shall remove from their websites and other literature the fact that they are "partners." From the date of signature by official parties of ORCID and ICSU-WDS, this MOU will remain in effect for a period of two years, with option to renew. Either party may decide to end the agreement with notification to the other party.
11. This MoU is to be signed between WDS and ORCID by the respective heads of organizations or their authorized delegates.

(On behalf of ORCID)



Date: 25 November 2016  
Name: Laurel Haak, PhD  
Position: Executive Director, ORCID

(On behalf of ICSU-WDS)



Date: 25 November 2016  
Name: Mustapha Mokrane, PhD  
Position: Executive Director, ICSU-WDS