

Preferred File Formats

The choice of file format is of essential importance in order to ensure that the research data will remain usable in the future. 4TU.ResearchData therefore strongly encourages the use of standard, exchangeable or open file formats. For the preferred formats, 4TU.ResearchData guarantees that the research data will remain accessible and that they will be migrated or converted if necessary.

Preferred (sustainable) file formats that receive full preservation	
Text	Plain text, XML, HTML, PDF (PDF/A-1), JSON, PDB (Protein Data Bank), XYZ <i>(all formats should be encoded in UTF-8)</i>
Spreadsheets	CSV (Comma-separated values), Tab-delimited values, PDF (PDF/A-1)
Images	JPEG, TIFF, PNG, SVG
Geospatial	GML (Geographical Mark-up Language), KML (Keyhole Mark-up Language), ESRI Shapefile, Geo-referenced TIFF
Numerical	NetCDF, CSV, JSON
Video	<i>No sustainable format established</i>
Audio	Waveform Audio File Format (WAVE)
Databases	Delimited Flat File w/DDL
Archives	ZIP, TAR, GZIP, 7Z