

Appendix to Jena Experiment data sharing and publication policy

Jena Experiment data use and publication policy

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This document describes the procedure to access public and non-public data for scientists who are neither Jena Experiment members nor participants.

1. Background

The Jena Experiment (JE) has generated a wealth of data on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning since its initiation in 2002. These data have been generated by many different members, participants, and alumni of the JE, following the JE data sharing and publication policy.

The research consortium of the JE strongly supports data sharing, while ensuring that the data providers and the JE get a fair credit for their work through co-authorship, citation, and/or inclusion in the acknowledgments of resulting papers.

1.1 Access to metadata

In general, metadata of all datasets can be viewed by the public. The metadata in the database will be accessible for external users via the internet, where they can browse and search for metadata. For all datasets it is indicated whether or not they are public. Each dataset has a contact person. External users are free to contact the contact person to obtain further information about a dataset.

1.2 Access to public data

- By default, after an embargo period of three years from the end of data collection/data assembly, the datasets from the JE will be made publicly available. This embargo period can be extended once for another two years. Further extensions are possible but need to be justified.
- External users may download publicly available data. While there is no formal need to involve the data creators, we strongly encourage contact and collaboration between the external user(s) and the data creator(s).
- The data creators as well as the data management team will be informed about any data download of external users. Conversely, the external user is informed about the contact details of the data contact person.

2. Request for data that are not publicly available

Only registered users will get access to the non-public datasets. People interested in non-public datasets can become *external users* of the database.

2.1 Registration

- To register, follow the URL: <https://jexis.idiv.de/Account/Register> and create a new account. In registering, the applicant needs to fill out a request form stating the personal information.
- To complete registration, applicants have to accept this Appendix to the Jena Experiment Data sharing and publication policy.
- After registering in the database and signing the Appendix, the applicant needs to send a signed copy of the Appendix to the data management team via email (jexis_admins@listserv.uni-jena.de) and state the detailed intention of the usage of the datasets in the database.
- Registration as an *external user* can only be denied in exceptional cases, such as previous data abuse etc.
- Registration as an *external user* is valid for one year and can be renewed upon request.

2.2 Data request

- After registration, a data request can be sent to the data contact person through the database. The applicant and data creators must come to an agreement on how the data are used before they are made available. Such agreements have to include the statements on how the data will be used, and how the data creators will be involved in the analysis and the paper writing.
- the expectation is that data owners will grant access and that denial should be the exception. Only when no agreement is reached (e.g. because the use of the data interferes with planned analyses by the data creators), data requests can be denied.

3. General publication rules

- By signing this form, the external users agree to follow the rules of good scientific practice. This includes that data are not transferred to a third person. Anybody intending to use data must formulate a separate data request, e.g. it is not possible for a scientist to pass the data on to a (Ph.D.-) student or a colleague. Commercial use of data is not allowed, unless written consent of the JE has been obtained.
- By signing this document, external users also agree to acknowledge the data source in the methods section or the appendix or acknowledgements of any products that involve the public and non-public dataset in the JE. We recommend a text that covers the following content

“The data on “variables” were obtained by “applicant” from the Jena Experiment database (<https://jexis.idiv.de/>) on “date”. We thank “data creators” for making this data set available. The Jena Experiment is a research unit funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (FOR 456/1451/5000).”

- Finally, the JE should be informed about the outcome of the analysis, and we strongly encourage uploading any derived variables from the JE data to the JE database.

4. Limitation of liability

Every effort has been made by the data management team of the JE to ensure the highest quality of the data. However, the data management team or any data creator can neither be held liable for any error or omission in the datasets nor for any direct, indirect, or consequential damages arising from the use thereof. Users are requested to report any errors or deficiencies directly to the data management team of the JE.

Name and address of applicant:

Date, place and signature: