How FAIR are your data?

Findable
It should be possible for others to discover your data. Rich metadata should be available online in a searchable resource, and the data should be assigned a persistent identifier.

A persistent identifier is assigned to your data
There are rich metadata, describing your data
The metadata are online in a searchable resource e.g. a catalogue or data repository
The metadata record specifies the persistent identifier

Accessible
It should be possible for humans and machines to gain access to your data, under specific conditions or restrictions where appropriate. FAIR does not mean that data need to be open! There should be metadata, even if the data aren’t accessible.

Following the persistent ID will take you to the data or associated metadata
The protocol by which data can be retrieved follows recognised standards e.g. http
The access procedure includes authentication and authorisation steps, if necessary
Metadata are accessible, wherever possible, even if the data aren’t

Interoperable
Data and metadata should conform to recognised formats and standards to allow them to be combined and exchanged.

Data is provided in commonly understood and preferably open formats
The metadata provided follows relevant standards
Controlled vocabularies, keywords, thesauri or ontologies are used where possible
Qualified references and links are provided to other related data

Reusable
Lots of documentation is needed to support data interpretation and reuse. The data should conform to community norms and be clearly licensed so others know what kinds of reuse are permitted.

The data are accurate and well described with many relevant attributes
The data have a clear and accessible data usage license
It is clear how, why and by whom the data have been created and processed
The data and metadata meet relevant domain standards

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