

# What is the data life cycle?

## Short Answer

The data life cycle is a conceptual tool to break down and bundle tasks and information on research data management, from planning to publication.

## Detailed Answer

A data life cycle describes different steps that research data ideally undergo and that each require different focus of data management. GFBio defined ten steps that cover the whole range of operations necessary in the collection, archiving and reuse of research data. Ensuring that each step has been addressed will result in the publication of well structured, FAIR research data and generation of knowledge.

### See also:

- [FAQ: What is FAIR data?](#)
- [FAQ: What are research data?](#)
- [FAQ: Why do I need research data management?](#)