

KNZ LTER Data Package Authorship Guidelines

Selecting suitable authors for a data package is vital for its credibility and usability. This process, beyond mere formality, significantly influences data integrity. The careful selection of authors, guided by specific criteria, ensures accurate representation, precise documentation, and reliability for users, contributing to overall trustworthiness and accessibility of the data.

1. **Authors:** A creator is considered to be an author of the data package, i.e. a person responsible for intellectual input into its creation. At least one creator is required for a data package.
2. **Expertise & Contribution:** Authors selected for a dataset must have substantial expertise in the dataset's specific domain, and their involvement should go beyond nominal participation. The criteria emphasize the need for meaningful intellectual and practical contributions, ensuring that authors actively contribute to the creation, collection, and supervision of the data, fostering a comprehensive and reliable dataset.
3. **Responsibility & Accountability:** Authors are accountable for ensuring the dataset is accurate and reliable. This includes being accessible to answer user queries, double-checking data accuracy, and taking a proactive approach to resolve any potential issues.
4. **Transparency & Documentation:** Authors need to accurately record every detail about the dataset. This involves providing thorough information on data sources, how the data was collected, definitions of variables, any changes made to the data, and acknowledging potential limitations or biases that might exist in the dataset.
5. **Ethical Considerations:** Authors should uphold strong ethical guidelines throughout the entire data lifecycle, with a main focus on getting the necessary permissions for collecting data
6. **Acknowledgment:** Besides the authors listed in the data package, it's important to give a shout-out to others who played a significant role. This helps everyone understand their contributions better. You can note this acknowledgment in the "associated party" section of the metadata document, mentioning what each person did.
7. **Review & Validation:** Authors should be open to feedback and make any needed corrections suggested by the site IM. If the dataset is ongoing, authors should regularly review data package and its documentation to make sure it stays accurate, relevant, and usable over time.

8. **Graduate Student Thesis:** For a graduate student thesis, it is advisable to list the adviser as a co-author due to their crucial role in project supervision. This involvement remains important even after the student graduates, allowing the adviser to continue with the project or address future inquiries.
9. **Legacy dataset ownership:** For projects that are still actively collecting data and ones where the data collection has been completed, in the event that the original creators of the dataset leave the projects through retirement or other events, we need to have a 'point person(s)' that has enough working knowledge about the project to answer potential questions, if necessary.

A). The original data creator suggests someone else to serve as point of contact for the data if they leave and then both the original owner and the new person are both listed as authors, this adjustment recognizes their historical contribution and maintains dataset continuity.

B). In certain cases, lead principal investigator may reach out to individuals knowledgeable about a dataset. If they agree, we might include them as co-authors. The notifications sent in such cases include details about the changes, reasons for modifications, and potential impacts on the data. The overarching aim is to uphold transparency and ensure the overall integrity of the data.

C). For long-term data, EDI (The Environmental Data Initiative) suggests including the organization or current principal investigator. Given that general online queries often use the PI's last name during the search process, it's advisable to list more data creators, even if the process of adding persons muddles credit for the original long-term data. The original creator(s) will retain their place in the author list, and the current principal investigator will be added as a co-author.