

# Data retention in DataverseNL: more than a setting

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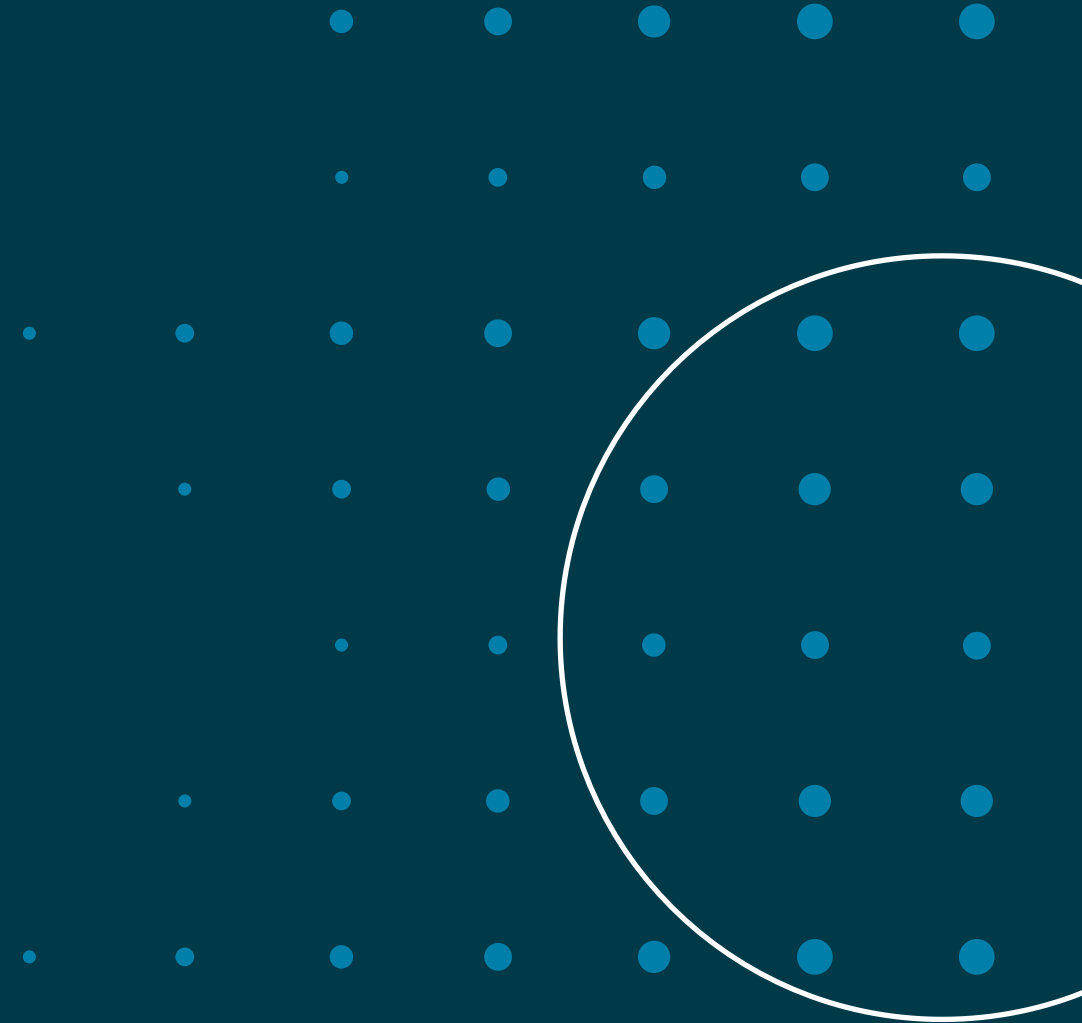
DANS Open Day  
Open data, open science



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3. Open discussion on applying retention periods in practice

# Introducing DataverseNL



# What is DataverseNL?

## Research data repository service provided by DANS

It helps researchers and research organisations to:

- publish research data
- make data findable and reusable
- support FAIR data principles
- manage datasets in a structured and transparent way

# DataverseNL vs Data Station

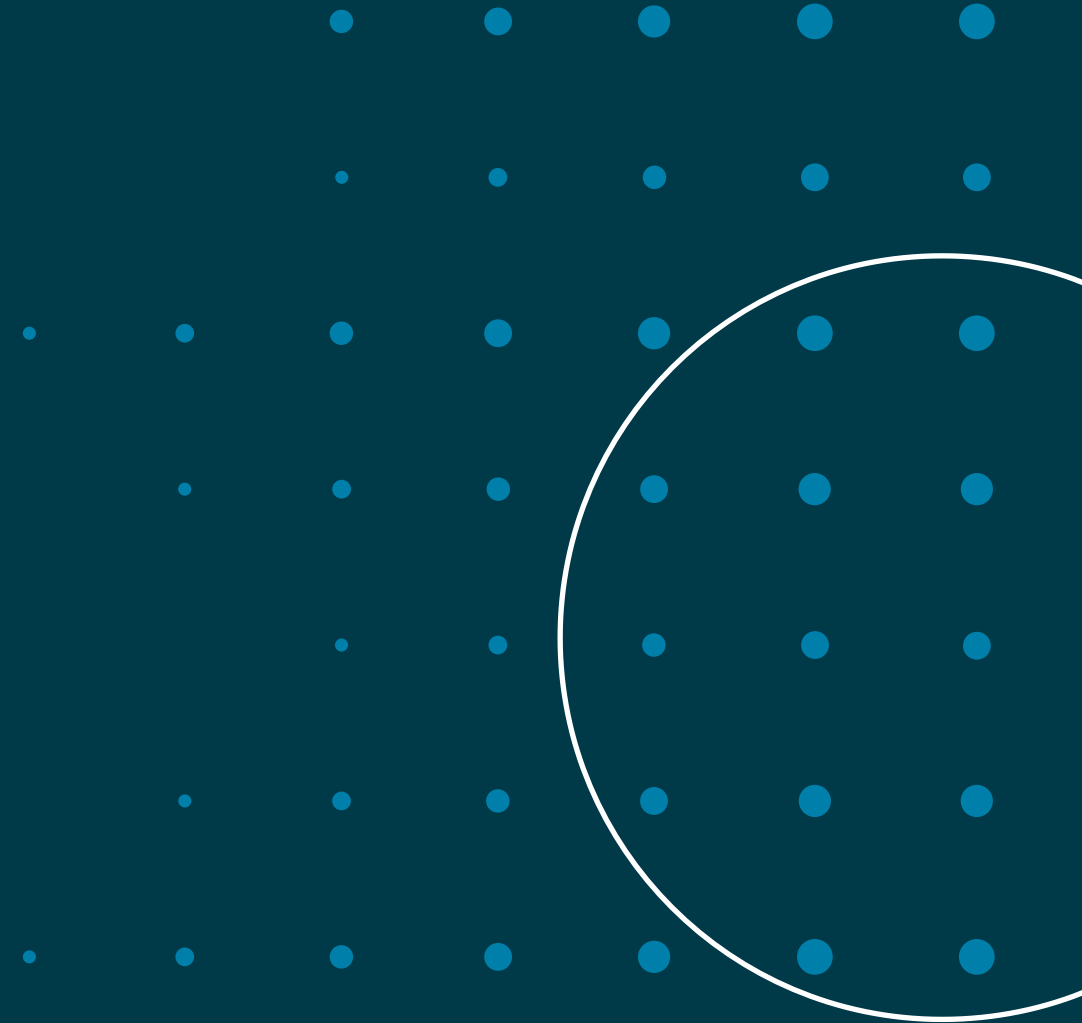
## DataverseNL

- Repository service used by institutions
- Institution is responsible for local workflows, support and curation
- Researchers deposit data in their institutional collection
- Domain-agnostic: suitable for different disciplines
- Paid by institution

## Data Stations

- Repositories managed by DANS
- DANS provides curation, archiving and access
- Researchers deposit data directly with DANS
- Domain-specific repositories with tailored guidance and requirements
- Free deposit up to 50 GB per account

# DataverseNL functionality: embargo, deaccession and retention (with Treasure hunt)



# Dataverse functionality

The Dataverse software offers four different ways to restrict access to files. Besides restricting the file and enabling the access request feature, the options are:

- Embargo (on file level)
- Deaccession (on dataset level)
- Retention period (on file level)

Based on the institutional workflow, the features are available for depositors and/or curators.

# Dataverse functionality - Embargo

- A depositor can only set an embargo on a file before publishing
- For DataverseNL the embargo can last up to 2 years max
- After reaching embargo date, the file will become accessible
- The embargo functionality is different from file restriction functionality

## Edit Embargo

Edit the planned embargo for the selected file or files. Once this dataset version is published, you will need to contact an administrator to change the embargo date or reason of the file or files.

Add or Change

Select the embargo end-date \*

2026-08-30

Enter a short reason why this embargo exists

Data will be released after publication of the related publica

Save Changes

Cancel

# Dataverse functionality - Deaccession

- After publishing a dataset can be made inaccessible by deaccessioning
- Deaccession can apply to a version, multiple versions, or all versions of a dataset
- The DOI will keep resolving and lead you to a tombstone
- This is an irreversible action
- Deaccession is not the same as deleting. Files will still be stored on the server

## Deaccession Dataset ✕

 Deaccession is permanent.

This dataset will no longer be public and a tombstone will display the reason for deaccessioning. Please read the [documentation](#) if you have any questions.

Which version(s) do you want to deaccession? \*

- Version 1.1, Mar 26, 2026
- Version 1.0, Mar 26, 2026

What is the reason for deaccession? \*

There is identifiable data in one or more files.

Please enter additional information about the reason for deaccession.

The dataset shouldn't have been published due to privacy sensitive data in it.

If applicable, please leave a URL where this dataset can be accessed after deaccessioning.

Optional dataset site, http://...

Deaccession

Cancel

# Dataverse functionality - Retention

- A retention period should be set (per file) before publishing
- Once the retention date has been reached, the file will become inaccessible
- The metadata will still be visible, the dataset will keep existing.
- Files are not deleted automatically
- The end date should at least be one year in the future

## Edit Retention Period ✕

Edit the planned retention period for the selected file or files. Once this dataset version is published, you will need to contact an administrator to change the retention period end date or reason of the file or files. After the retention period expires the files become unavailable for download.

**Add or Change**      **Select the retention period end date \***

**Enter a short reason why this retention period exists**

# What changes, what stays?

	<b>Embargo</b>	<b>Deaccession</b>	<b>Retention</b>
<b>Where</b>	On file level	On dataset or version level	On file level
<b>Visibility</b>	File metadata remains visible	Tombstone with dataset basic metadata remains visible when resolving the DOI link  No file metadata anymore	File metadata remains visible
<b>Access</b>	File downloading is disabled until the embargo date	Dataset/version is no longer accessible	File download is disabled after the retention date
<b>What happens to files?</b>	Files stay on the server	Files stay on the server	Files are deleted upon request
<b>Main purpose</b>	Temporary access restriction before release	Withdrawal of a dataset or version	Time-limited access to files  No automatic deletion

# Treasure hunt

Imagine you are a data steward who has received the following request from a researcher:

*"I found this very interesting publication, and I need the underlying data for my own research."*

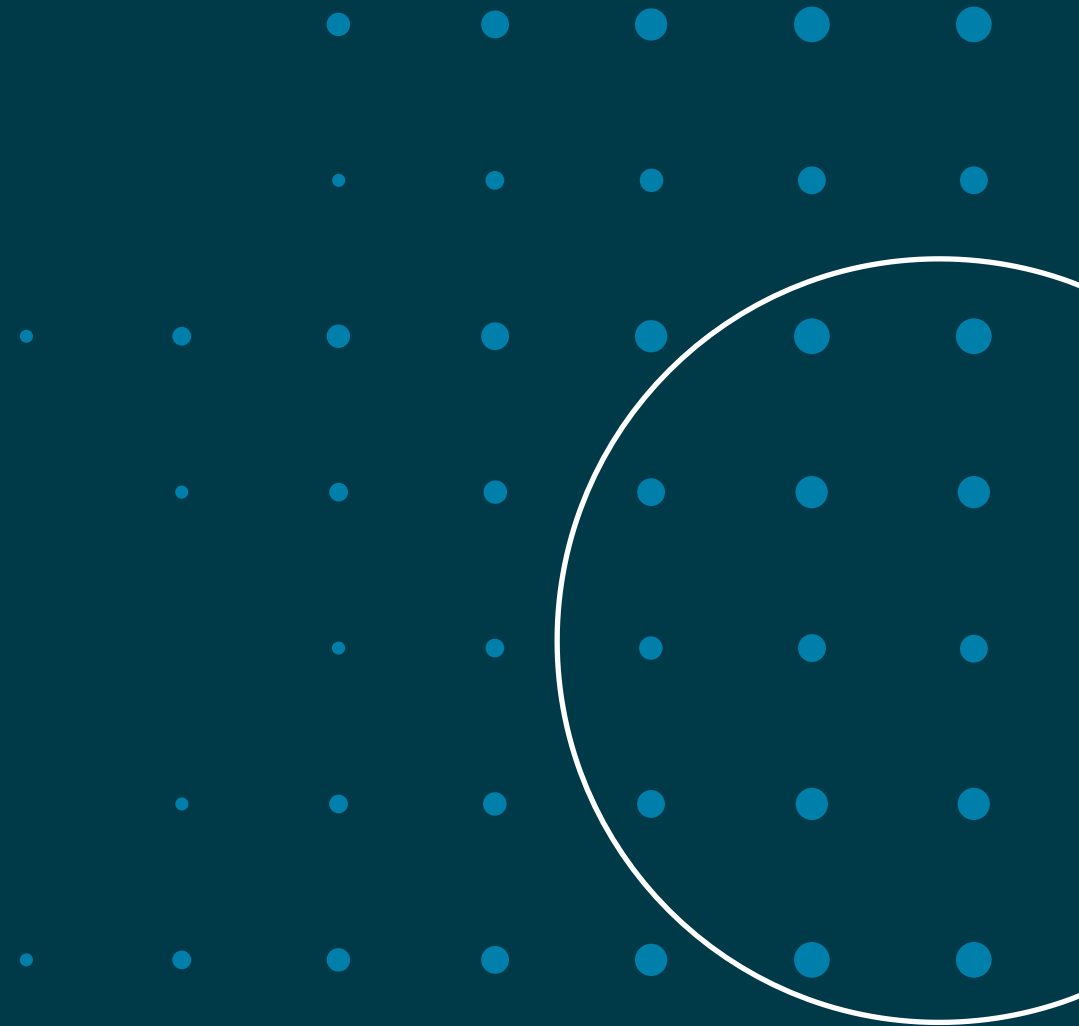
Jonhson, R., and M. Smith. 2026. "Temporal Gaps in Controlled Data Collection: A Case Study." In: *Journal for Academic Issues*, 3-2026, p. 1-5.

However, the researcher cannot find the data because the publication does not cite it properly. The paper only refers to these links:

- <https://demo.dataverse.nl/dataverse/ExpData>  
(Short link: [tinyurl.com/DataDVNL](https://tinyurl.com/DataDVNL) )
- <https://demo.dataverse.nl/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.80227/PDVNL/HLJMPV>  
(Short link: [tinyurl.com/datasetDOI](https://tinyurl.com/datasetDOI))

**Find the data treasure:** What is the name of **the data file** that is currently reusable?

# Open discussion on applying retention periods in practice



# Questions for discussion

What do you need from a repository to support data retention processes?

What should be made clear about retention periods?

Should the retention period be a mandatory field?

How important is re-appraisal?

Are institutional retention policies clear in practice?

# Thank you for your attention

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