

## Data Storage for Research Projects: a comparison table

This table provides a quick features comparison of the commonest storage choices for live research data projects. More information on Open Research Data Online (ORDO) is available from the Library research support website; for more information on other services visit IT Services intranet pages (require login).

	Open Research Data Online	One Drive	OU networked file storage	Share Point	Cloud based services (Drop Box, Sky Drive etc.)
Storage limits	Up to 50GB upon account creation; user may request more. Group storage may use faculty storage allocations rather than individual researcher allocations	1 TB overall: individual file sizes up to 10GB	See IT network administrators; if very large scale storage during project is required then it may need costing into bids	Default single file upload is 50MB; no limit on overall file storage. Discuss requirements with IT on site creation	So much free space; after which you will need to pay corporate rates. More information here:
Does it support collaboration?	Yes: invite collaborators to a project workspace. Basic shared space; no online editing of files. Simple permissions control. Project owner retains control of data. Individual files may be shared with private links	One Drive will allow simple file sharing with others who have either an Office 365 or a freely available Microsoft account. Does not support more complex collaboration	Yes: collaborators will need access to the OU network; OU computing accounts can be requested from IT Services. External collaborators need internal sponsors to gain access	Sophisticated project management and permissions control features for managing large scale projects. Internal collaborators only, unless collaborators register for an OU computing account	Yes: there are many file sharing and project management free tools available; they must be checked for data security (not recommended for sensitive data)

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Easy file updates?	Files may not be edited online. New files may be uploaded to replace older versions. No in-built version control for files	Very easy: online editing and sharing is available on an individual file basis	Very easy: files stored in a network area may be accessed as easily as locally stored files	Online content management and editing; version control functionality	Very easy: most services are designed for collaboration. Check individual providers' functionality
How secure is this storage?	Very secure: backups performed to industry standards. Arkivum data archiving service guarantees 100% security. Personal storage areas; two-factor authentication required for off-site login	Files encrypted at rest and in transit. Files backed up by Microsoft; copies held in multiple EU locations	Very secure from access external to OU, but there are no access controls within the network storage areas, so anyone who can access the shared areas has access to unencrypted files	Very secure: this is within the OU's firewall. Granular permissions settings within the Sharepoint site	Not recommended for storage of personal sensitive data. Check individual providers for service level descriptions
What about Data Protection issues?	You can store information classified up to and including Highly Confidential. This service falls within EU safe harbour laws regarding the storage of personal information	You can store information classified up to and including Highly Confidential	Secure within OU network; but no protection for personal sensitive data	Sophisticated permissions control options meet data protection requirements	Cloud based solutions should not be used for data storage where data is classified at Highly Confidential or above, unless you have approval from IT

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Backups?	Amazon cloud redundancy, daily backups kept for 5 days. Weekly snapshots taken of entire data system	Files backed up by Microsoft and copies held on multiple Microsoft servers in multiple locations (within the EU)	Yes – regular backups taken according to best practice	Yes – regular backups taken according to best practice	Check individual providers' terms and conditions
What happens if I leave the OU?	Set up a personal Figshare account with up to 20GB free storage. Manual file transfer with request to the Figshare helpdesk	All documents attached to your OU account will be deleted. You must transfer them to a different personal account	Any documents you wish to access must be transferred to a personal storage service	Any documents you wish to access must be transferred to a personal storage service	Externally hosted service
Will it work with other devices?	The Figshare platform is cloud based so can be accessed from a web browser. It is possible to upload data from mobile devices	Yes – designed to work across multiple platforms. Not currently recommended to use the sync client	Yes – if those devices are enabled for use within the OU	Yes – if those devices are enabled for use within the OU	Yes; cloud based services are designed for ease of online access. See individual service providers' terms and conditions for use
Where do I get it?	Access from the Library-research-support website or OU A-Z intranet index. OU staff and research students can create an account on first login: once logged in you can request more storage	IT intranet pages have advice on accessing One Drive (requires login)	IT Helpdesk	IT Helpdesk	Individual service providers