

# The importance of research data preservation and reproducibility

Belle II Data Preservation Workshop,  
The Dipartimento di Ingegneria of the Roma Tre University  
October 6, 2022

Ana Trisovic, Harvard University

# About me

- PhD on “Data preservation and reproducibility at LHCb”
- Focus on data science, data engineering and reproducibility



# Outline

- The potential of data preservation
- The power of open data
- The reproducibility challenge
- Summary & recommendations

# The potential of data preservation



Ancel  
Keys

- **Minnesota Coronary Experiment** by Ancel Keys and Ivan Frantz
  - Randomized and blinded control trial in late 1960s
  - No positive effects of the altered dietary intake

# The potential of data preservation



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- The raw data and analysis were discovered in 2013

# The potential of data preservation



Ancel  
Keys

## RESEARCH

### Re-evaluation of the traditional diet-heart hypothesis: analysis of recovered data from Minnesota Coronary Experiment (1968-73)

Christopher E Ramsden,<sup>1,2</sup> Daisy Zamora,<sup>3</sup> Sharon Majchrzak-Hong,<sup>1</sup> Keturah R Faurot,<sup>2</sup> Steven K Broste,<sup>4</sup> Robert P Frantz,<sup>5</sup> John M Davis,<sup>3,6</sup> Amit Ringel,<sup>1</sup> Chirayath M Suchindran,<sup>7</sup> Joseph R Hibbeln<sup>1</sup>

#### ABSTRACT OBJECTIVE

oil polyunsaturated margarine). Control diet was high in saturated fat from animal fats, common margarines,

- **Minnesota Coronary Experiment** by Ancel Keys and Ivan Frantz
  - Randomized and blinded control trial in late 1960s
  - No positive effects of the altered dietary intake
- The raw data and analysis were discovered in 2013
- New knowledge with the analysis of recovered data

# Takeaway

The potential of data preservation lies in research verification and data reuse

- Primary vs. Secondary data analysis

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# The power of open data



ARCSAT and SDSS telescope buildings at the Apache Point Observatory



- The Sloan Digital Sky Survey or SDSS



# The power of open data



- The Sloan Digital Sky Survey or SDSS
- Galaxy Zoo - a crowdsourced astronomy project that invites general public to assist in the classification of large number of galaxies



# The power of open data



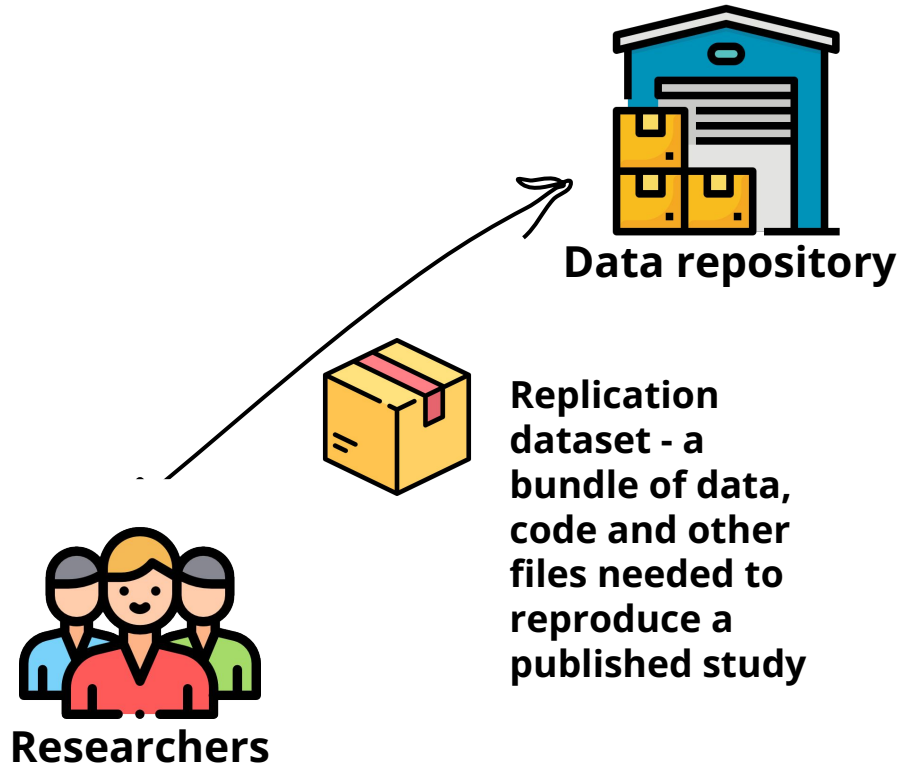
- The Sloan Digital Sky Survey or SDSS
- Galaxy Zoo - a crowdsourced astronomy project that invites general public to assist in the classification of large number of galaxies
  - Over 500k people contributed to the effort
  - The team published over 50 papers
  - Inspired similar citizen science projects across astrophysics and beyond

# Takeaway

This potential of data is maximized when the data is shared as open data

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# The challenge of reproducibility



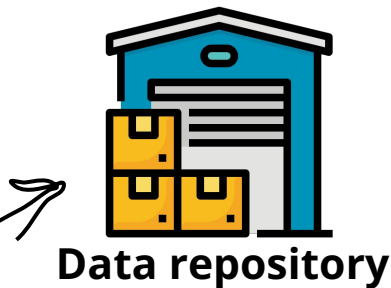
# The challenge of reproducibility



Researchers



Replication dataset - a bundle of data, code and other files needed to reproduce a published study



## Replication Data for: How Political Parties Shape Public Opinion in the Real World

Version 2.0

Biggaard, Martin; Rune Slothuus, 2020, "Replication Data for: How Political Parties Shape Public Opinion in the Real World", <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/Z5B7CQ>, Harvard Dataverse, V2, UNF:6:TyX-kjbxseSZUNEND/3GGg== [fileUNF]

Cite Dataset -

[Learn about Data Citation Standards.](#)

Access Dataset -

Contact Owner Share

Dataset Metrics

1,092 Downloads

### Description

How powerful are political parties in shaping citizens' opinions? Despite longstanding interest in the flow of influence between partisan elites and citizens, few studies to date examine how citizens react when their party changes its position on a major issue in the real world. We present a rare quasi-experimental panel study of how citizens responded when their political party suddenly reversed its position on two major and salient welfare issues in Denmark. With a five-wave panel survey collected just around these two events, we show that citizens' policy opinions changed immediately and substantially when their party switched its policy position—even when the new position went against citizens' previously held views. These findings advance the current, largely experimental literature on partisan elite influence. (2020-03-26)

### Subject

Social Sciences

### Keyword

Party cues, Political parties, Elite influence, Motivated reasoning, Polarization, Public opinion, Panel survey

### Related Publication

Biggaard, Martin, and Rune Slothuus. [date]. "How Political Parties Shape Public Opinion in the Real World." *American Journal of Political Science* Forthcoming. <http://ajps.org/>

### Notes

This dataset underwent an independent verification process that replicated the tables and figures in the primary article. For the supplementary materials, verification was performed solely for the successful execution of code. The verification process was carried out by the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The associated article has been awarded Open Materials and Open Data Badges. Learn more about the Open Practice Badges from the [Center for Open Science](#).



Files Metadata Terms Versions

Search this dataset...

Filter by  
File Type: All - Access: All -

Sort -

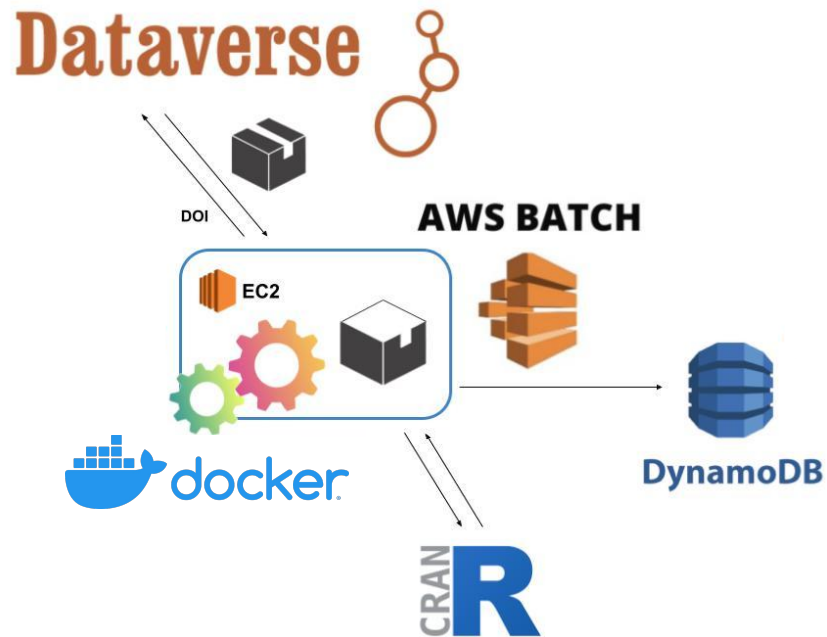
1 to 10 of 25 Files

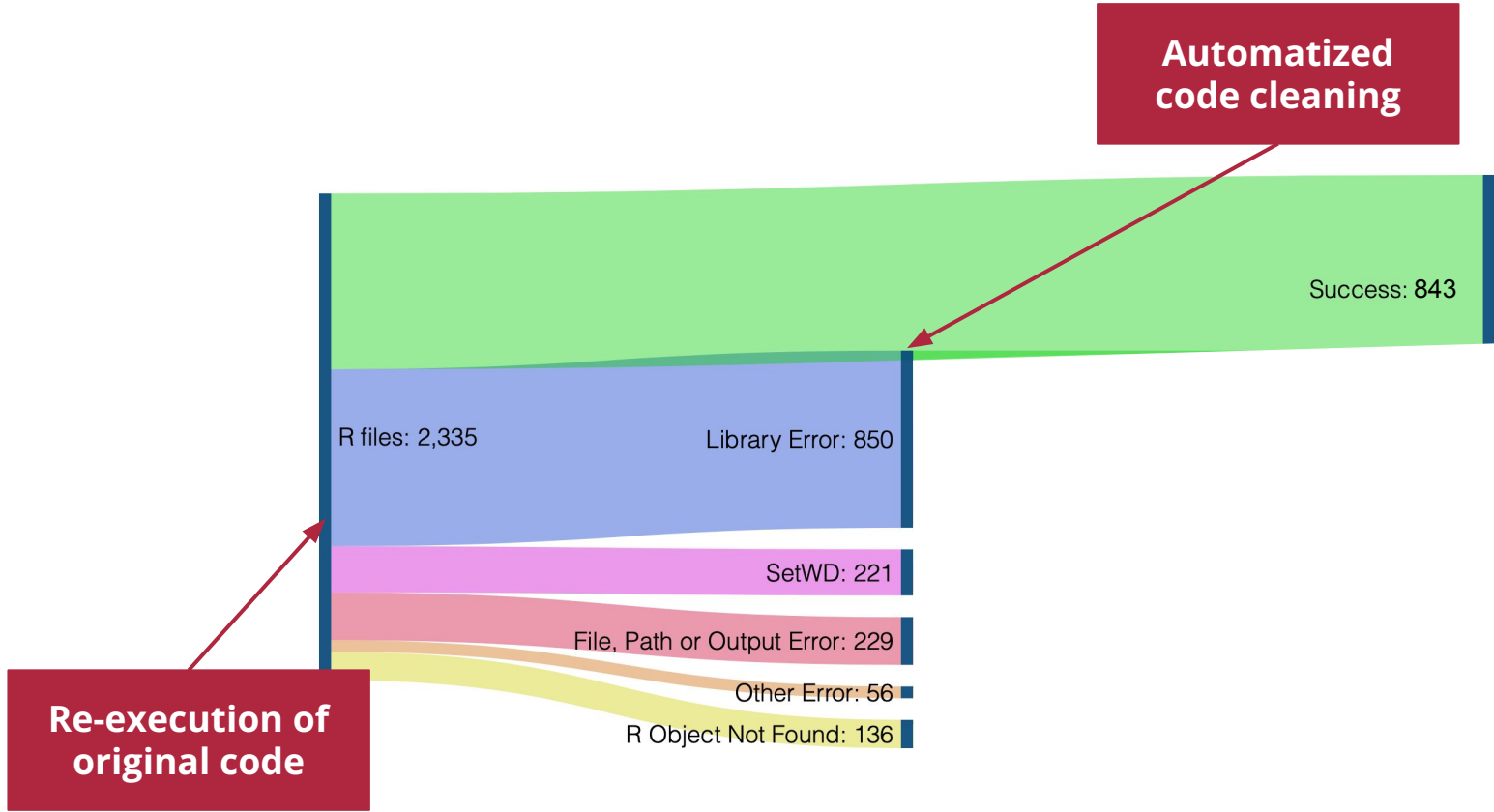
Download -

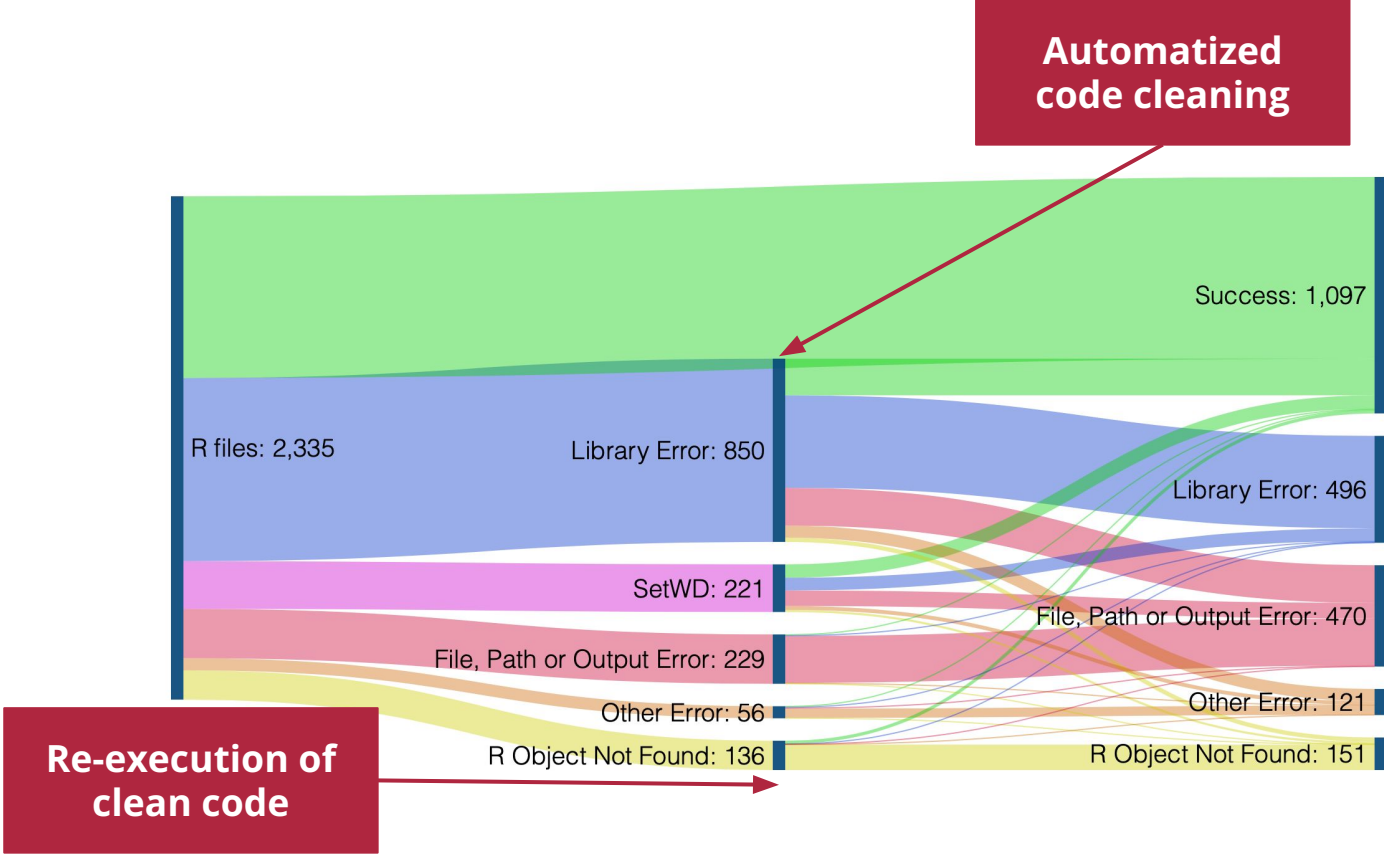
	<b>build_data.R</b> R Syntax - 12.1 KB Published Jun 29, 2020 58 Downloads MDS: a94...597	 
	<b>codebook_ess.pdf</b> Adobe PDF - 508.8 KB Published Jun 29, 2020 48 Downloads	 

# Our data collection workflow

1. Replication dataset is retrieved from Harvard Dataverse to AWS
2. We collect data on the content, install used libraries and attempt automatic code re-execution
3. The re-execution result and other collected data are passed to the backend database for analysis







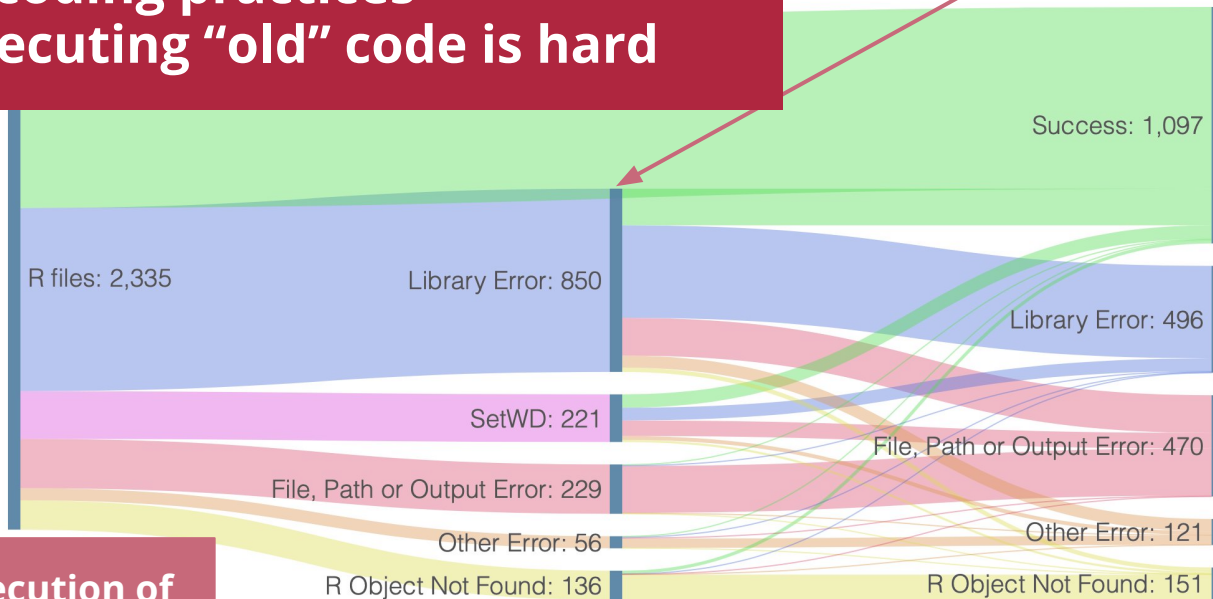
**Automatized code cleaning**

**Re-execution of clean code**



- Many errors can be avoided with good coding practices
- Re-executing "old" code is hard

Automatized code cleaning



Re-execution of clean code



**Lorena Barba**

@LorenaABarba



Replying to [@danielskatz](#) [@npch](#) and 3 others

**Reproducibility is obsolescent. Transparency is enduring.**

1:34 PM · Jul 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

**1** Retweet   **1** Quote Tweet   **2** Likes



# Takeaway

Reproducibility as a realistic goal  
for the short term, transparency  
for the long term

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# Summary & recommendations

# So why is data preservation important?

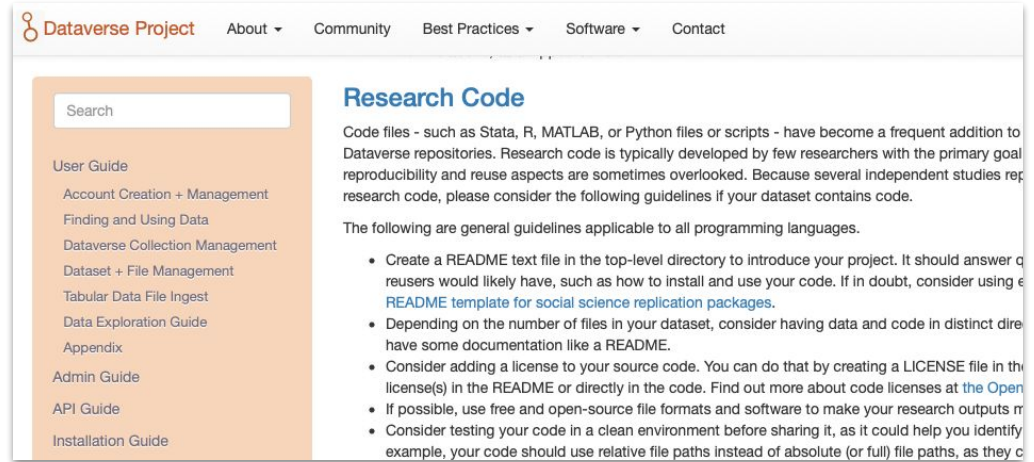
- Reuse allows for new scientific results
- Data sharing facilitates collaboration

# So why is data preservation important?

- Reuse allows for new scientific results
- Data sharing facilitates collaboration
- Result verification & troubleshooting
- Education and training

# Recommendations

- Guidance



The screenshot shows the Dataverse Project website. The navigation bar includes 'Dataverse Project', 'About', 'Community', 'Best Practices', 'Software', and 'Contact'. A search bar is located in the top left. The main content area is titled 'Research Code' and contains the following text:

Code files - such as Stata, R, MATLAB, or Python files or scripts - have become a frequent addition to Dataverse repositories. Research code is typically developed by few researchers with the primary goal of reproducibility and reuse aspects are sometimes overlooked. Because several independent studies require research code, please consider the following guidelines if your dataset contains code.

The following are general guidelines applicable to all programming languages.

- Create a README text file in the top-level directory to introduce your project. It should answer questions users would likely have, such as how to install and use your code. If in doubt, consider using the [README template for social science replication packages](#).
- Depending on the number of files in your dataset, consider having data and code in distinct directories and have some documentation like a README.
- Consider adding a license to your source code. You can do that by creating a LICENSE file in the top-level directory or in the license(s) in the README or directly in the code. Find out more about code licenses at [the Open Access Journal of Software](#).
- If possible, use free and open-source file formats and software to make your research outputs more accessible.
- Consider testing your code in a clean environment before sharing it, as it could help you identify bugs. For example, your code should use relative file paths instead of absolute (or full) file paths, as they are more portable.

# Recommendations

- Guidance
- Helper tools

The screenshot shows the Dataverse Project website. The top navigation bar includes 'Dataverse Project', 'About', 'Community', 'Best Practices', 'Software', and 'Contact'. A search bar is located in the top left. The main content area is titled 'Research Code' and contains text about code files and guidelines. A sidebar on the left lists various guides. Overlaid on the page is a GitHub Action card for 'Dataverse Uploader Action', version v1.0, with a 'Use latest version' button. Below the card, the title 'Dataverse Uploader' is shown, followed by a description: 'This action uploads the repository content to a Dataverse dataset.' There is also an 'Input parameters' section.

**Research Code**

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- Depending on the number of files in your dataset, consider having data and code in distinct directories.

**Dataverse Uploader Action**

Use latest version

v1.0 Latest version

**Dataverse Uploader**

This action uploads the repository content to a Dataverse dataset.

**Input parameters**

To use this action, you will need the following input parameters:

Stars: 0

Contributors: 1

Categories





# Recommendations

- Guidance
- Helper tools



The image shows a screenshot of the Dataverse Project website. The top navigation bar includes "Dataverse Project", "About", "Community", "Best Practices", "Software", and "Contact". A search bar is visible. The main content area is titled "Research Code" and contains text about code files in Dataverse repositories. A "Dataverse Uploader Action" GitHub Action card is overlaid on the page. The card features a play button icon, the text "Dataverse Uploader Action", a "v1.0 Latest version" badge, and a "Use latest version" button. Below the title, it says "This action uploads the repository content to a Dataverse dataset." and lists "Input parameters".



# Recommendations

- Guidance
- Helper tools
- Policy



## Data Access Policy for LHCb

1. Data preservation is fundamentally important for the collaboration itself, regardless of any external requirements. This is to enable collaboration members to access data for many years after it was taken and requires a consistent set of the data, associated software, metadata and conditions and documentation to be preserved. LHCb will seek to develop such a data preservation capability as soon as practical. We will need to identify additional resources for this.
2. LHCb supports the principle of open access. In principle we can envisage providing some such open access based on the work needed internally for data preservation (point 1 above).

A composite image showing a screenshot of the Dataverse Project website and a GitHub Action page. The website screenshot includes a navigation bar with 'Dataverse Project', 'About', 'Community', 'Best Practices', 'Software', and 'Contact'. A search bar is visible, and a 'Research Code' section discusses guidelines for including code in datasets. The GitHub Action page shows the 'Dataverse Uploader Action' by the Dataverse Project, version v1.0 (Latest version), with a 'Use latest version' button and a star count of 0.





ALFRED P. SLOAN  
FOUNDATION



- Guidance
- Helper tools
- Policy

The screenshot shows the Dataverse Project website. The top navigation bar includes 'Dataverse Project', 'About', 'Community', 'Best Practices', 'Software', and 'Contact'. A search bar is visible. The main content area is titled 'Research Code' and contains text about code files in research repositories. Below this, there are general guidelines for research code. A 'Dataverse Uploader Action' GitHub Action card is overlaid on the page, showing a play button icon, the title 'Dataverse Uploader Action', and a 'v1.0 Latest version' badge. To the right of the action card, there is a 'Use latest version' button and a 'Stars' section with a star icon and the number '0'. Below the stars, there is a 'Contributors' section with a profile picture and a 'Categories' section.

LHCb Starterkit Lessons

STARTERKIT

LHCb

Est. 2015

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