Introducing the Data Policy Finder: Helping Researchers Navigate Publication Requirements

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Looking back, forging ahead
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Objectives

The Data Policy Finder was created as part of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Library's Research Data Management program in response to researchers' requests for publication assistance regarding their data. The publication process can often include untimely roadblocks including publisher-specific requirements for depositing minimal datasets and identification of datasets, code, and other supporting research materials. These publication policies can be difficult to find, understand, and compare in advance of publishing, and often prolong the publication timeline.

Use Cases

For research planning:
Researchers are being asked to identify data repositories and expected data output from intended research at increasingly early stages in the research lifecycle. With NIH's new Data Management and Sharing Policy, this information would be included in a data management plan. Since the research proposal often presumes a goal of publication, understanding the requirements of intended journals can help researchers align their data plans to lower the eventual burden of publishing.

For prospective authors:
Journal publication policies, especially regarding data and other supplemental research output, can be challenging to find and are often buried deep within the interior pages of a publisher's website. They can be presented as PDFs, static HTML pages, or bundled into other author policies. Prospective authors would benefit from a resource to help them discover relevant policies for their specific journal and point them directly to the policies on a publisher's site.

Data Policy Finder Benefits

- Saving time for the researcher in identify publication policy information.
- Highlighting critical components of the publisher's policy.
- Linking to the complete policy, often difficult to discover.
- Providing a curated list of journals in which our authors most frequently publish.
- Adding additional insights and recommendations for repositories via Librarian "Notes."
- Aligning researchers' Data Management Plans with publisher data requirements.

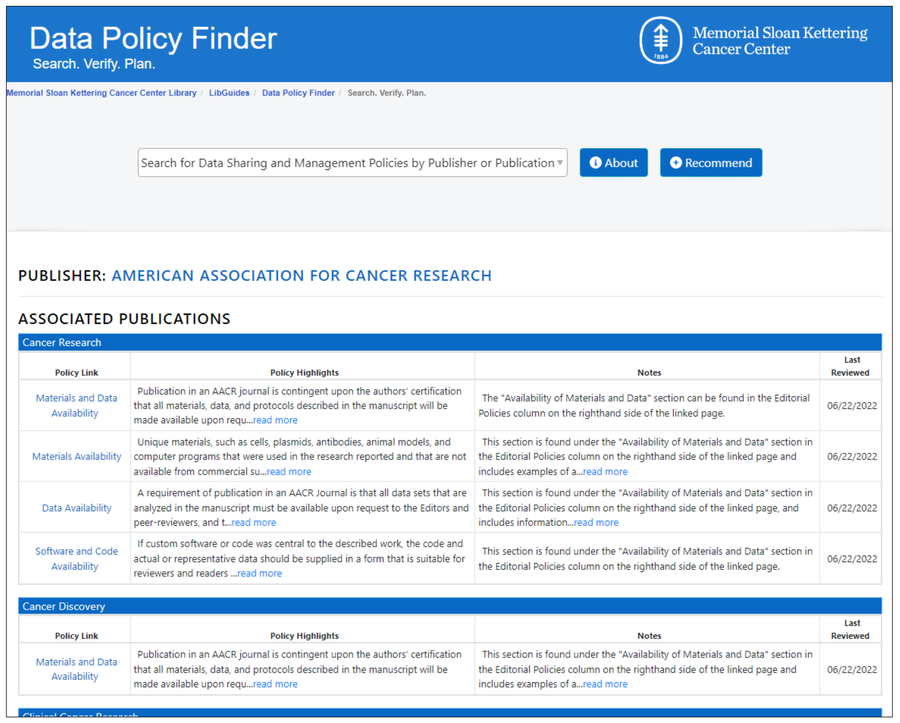
How to Use the Data Policy Finder

Begin by typing in the name of a **Journal** or **Publisher**. Search suggestions based on the text you enter will appear. At any point, you can browse through the list of **Publishers** and **Publications.**

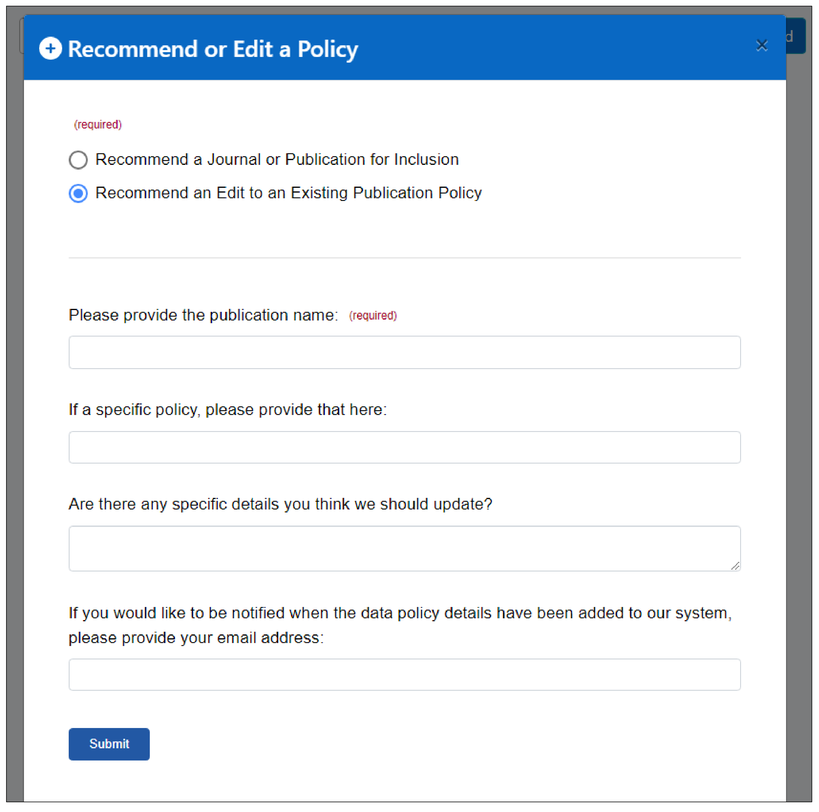
When selecting a title, you'll view the publisher and all their associated publications listed with their policies nested below. If you have searched for a specific journal, that title will appear at the top of the publications listed.

Each Data Policy Finder record entry includes:
- **Policy Link** identifying the type of policy and a link to it on the journal's website.
- **Policy Highlights** quoting relevant text from the policy.
- **Notes** containing additional guidance added and curated by Library staff.
- **Last Reviewed** indicating the last date the policy was reviewed or updated in the Data Policy Finder.

Search by Publisher or Journal



Recommend or Edit a Policy



https://libguides.mskcc.org/data-policy-finder

We would like to recognize and send a special thank you to the following Memorial Sloan Kettering Library staff for their support in creating and launching the Data Policy Finder:

- ❑ Anthony Dellureficio, Project Lead and Resource/Data Design
- ❑ Eric Willoughby, Application Development
- ❑ Adia Augustin, Content Creation

Join Our Community

We think this resource will bring value to others outside the Memorial Sloan Kettering Library user community and are seeking external collaboration partners.

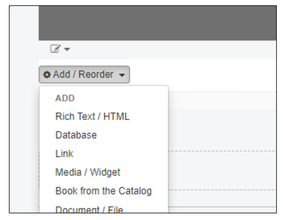
- **Librarians** can contribute content and updates, improve the interface and share this resource with their researchers by incorporating it into their library's resources.
  e.g., Hofstra/Northwell: https://libguides.hofstra.edu/c.php?g=926829&p=9148158
- **Publishers** can provide policy information through APIs or other standards which can be easily imported and homogenized with other publisher policy metadata.
- **Standards Organizations** can work with us and publishers to ensure that structured metadata standards are developed.

Instructions for Adding Data Policy Finder to Your LibGuide or Website

We welcome other libraries or information providers to embed this resource in their LibGuides or other library discovery platforms. If you would like to embed this resource in one of your systems, we would appreciate being acknowledged for the application, and letting us know so that we can record its use and value.

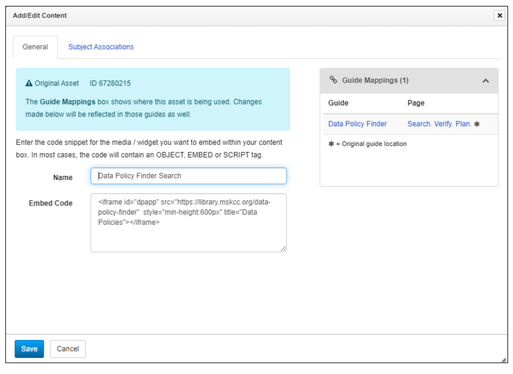
The easiest and most flexible method is to iframe the Search API. We added custom CSS and JS to our LibGuide, and you can add your own style to better integrate this application with your institution's resources.

The process for adding to a LibGuide is:
1. Add a new media/widget box.



2. Add code below to the "Embed Code" section:

<iframe src="https://library.mskcc.org/data-policy-finder" style="min-height:600px" title="Data Policies"></iframe>



Future Development Plans

- Enhance the back-end interface
- Capture and track usage metrics
- Add new content
- Create a community for those interested in data policies and related initiatives
- Establish metadata standardization
- Develop ingest process for policies – the dream!