

#LoveData24

# LOVE DATA WEEK

Dear Scientist/Researcher/Stakeholder,

In celebration of [International Love Data Week](#), observed globally from 12 to 16 February 2024, we seize the opportunity to shed light on noteworthy data initiatives and activities within South Africa. Supported by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), organisations such as DIRISA (Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa), AOSP (African Open Science Platform), and ASSAf (Academy of Science of South Africa) play pivotal roles in fostering open science and promoting scientific endeavours within a trusted collaborative environment. As we embark on this week dedicated to recognising the significance of data, our focus is on creating awareness and encouraging engagement with these influential entities that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and innovation in South Africa.

## Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA)

We're here to support YOUR research  
<https://www.dirisa.ac.za/>

It is well known that research data provides reliable evidence, helps make informed decisions, and provides insights into new research areas. DIRISA is providing several services to manage research data and to support data-based research. These services are free for publicly funded researchers and are used by many individuals - organisations and persons, to reliably store and manage their data.

Some notable services are, the Data Deposit tool that enables the upload and sharing of data collections with others as the user decides; the Long-Term Archive service for storing important data for periods longer than 10 years; dShare service supporting Open data practices for users who would like to make their data openly accessible; and the Data Management Planning tool enabling the creation and sharing of such plans with funders and others. Data can be allocated persistent Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to make these assets more visible; papers and other publications can cite these DOIs as reference and thereby, improve the integrity of published fundings. Sharing data multiplies its value.

Subscription to these services is easy: merely register at the DIRISA portal (<https://www.dirisa.ac.za/>) and automatically get 100 GB free storage.

Individuals with needs for more storage can simply apply, and data processing needs can be accommodated by using the Sebowa OpenStack cloud data computing platform.

Let's keep our data assets local!

## African Open Science Platform (AOSP)

<https://aosp.org.za/>

The African Open Science platform currently promotes responsible data sharing by all stakeholders. Data sharing for African scholars is crucial in increasing visibility and transparency in the source of the data used for generating knowledge. This also creates more opportunities for collaboration between researchers, extending the use of the generated data. This can reduce/leverage financial resources used for conducting research and generating knowledge.

Let us share and show love for our fellow researchers.

## Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

<https://www.assaf.org.za/>

ASSAf is currently developing a framework aimed at aiding Research Institutions and Independent Researchers in complying with, creating legal certainty, and fostering collaboration, both nationally and internationally. This initiative ensures that Research Institutions and Independent Researchers achieve a consistent interpretation of POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act) and its impact on research. Through this framework, ASSAf aims to establish South Africa as a secure hub for research data, holding Research Institutions and Independent Researchers accountable for POPIA compliance. Additionally, it aims to prepare for an application for an adequacy decision under Article 45 of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation ('EU GDPR').