

# Community recommendations for geochemical data, services and analytical capabilities in the 21st century

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11 **Abstract**

The majority of geochemical and cosmochemical research is based upon observations and, in particular, upon the acquisition, processing and interpretation of analytical data from physical samples. The exponential increase in volumes and rates of data acquisition over the last century, combined with advances in instruments, analytical methods and an increasing variety of data types analysed, has necessitated the development of new ways of data curation, access and sharing. Together with novel data processing methods, these changes have enabled new scientific insights and are driving innovation in Earth and Planetary Science research. Yet, as approaches to data-intensive research develop and evolve, new challenges emerge. As large and often global data compilations increasingly form the basis for new research studies, institutional and methodological differences in data reporting are proving to be significant hurdles in synthesising data from multiple sources. Consistent data formats and descriptions as well as appropriate information on data quality are becoming crucial to enabling reproducibility and integration of results and fostering confidence for data reuse. Here, we explore the key challenges faced by the geo- and cosmochemistry community and, by drawing comparisons from other communities, recommend possible approaches to over-

come them. The first challenge is bringing together the numerous sub-disciplines within our community. One key factor for this convergence will be gaining endorsement from the international geochemical, cosmochemical and analytical societies and associations, journals and institutions. Increased education and outreach, spearheaded by ambassadors recruited from leading scientists across disciplines, will further contribute to raising awareness, and to uniting and mobilising the community. Appropriate incentives, recognition and credit for good data management as well as an improved, user-oriented technical infrastructure will be essential for achieving a cultural change towards an environment in which the effective use and real-time interchange of large datasets is common-place. Finally, the development of best practices for standardised data reporting and exchange, driven by expert working groups, will be a crucial step towards making geo- and cosmochemical data more Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable by both humans and machines (FAIR).

12 *Keywords:* FAIR data, data standards, data quality

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## 13 **1. Introduction**

14 Data are the backbone of geochemical and cosmochemical research, and their acquisition  
15 and use are central to many aspects of our research and education. Over the last century, an  
16 ever-increasing volume of geochemical data has been acquired and used to explore a large  
17 variety of past, present and future processes in the Earth, environmental and planetary  
18 sciences (Fig. 1). The growing rate of data generation is complemented by new capabilities  
19 in storing, accessing, processing and modelling of large datasets.

20 Motivated by a growing need for globally standardised geochemical data, the three geo-  
21 chemical data systems EarthChem, GEOROC and AusGeochem held a joint workshop at  
22 the Goldschmidt Conference 2022: “Earth Science meets Data Science: what are our needs  
23 for geochemical data, services and analytical capabilities in the 21st century?” (<https://conf.goldschmidt.info/goldschmidt/2022/meetingapp.cgi/Session/3301>). This  
24 workshop primarily focused on exploring the data and infrastructure requirements for ad-  
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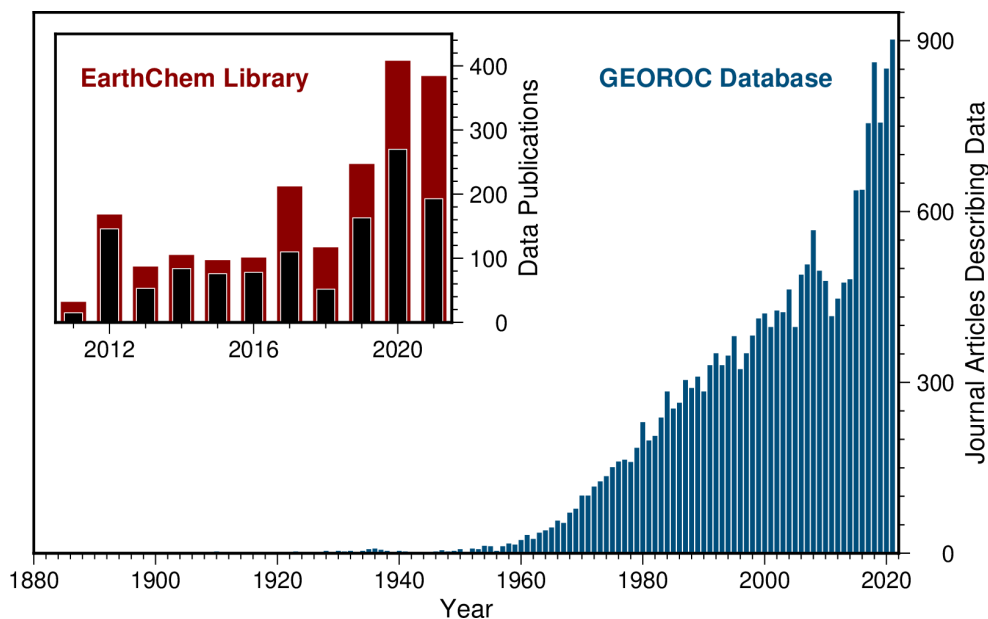


Figure 1: Increase in geochemical data published in journals and repositories since the late 19th century. Blue histogram shows data compiled within the GEOROC database, by publication year of the respective journal articles, as a proxy for the increase in data production within the subdiscipline of igneous geochemistry. The oldest article contributing to the GEOROC compilations was published in 1883. Inset: Number of data submissions to the EarthChem Library (ECL), a domain repository for all subdisciplines of geochemistry. Red = files submitted to the ECL each year; black = datasets published. Note the significant increase in submissions following a change in publisher requirements in 2019.

26 dressing future scientific challenges. More information about the workshop programme,  
 27 participating data systems and attendees is available in the Supplementary Material.

28 This paper summarises the workshop outcomes and provides recommendations for a  
 29 global geochemical data framework, required to accomplish the scientific challenges of the  
 30 21st century and beyond.

## 31 2. Motivation

### 32 2.1. Diversity and Fragmentation of Geochemical Data

33 We understand geochemistry as the discipline that integrates geology and chemistry  
 34 by using the principles and tools of chemistry to discover and develop fundamental under-

35 standing of the dynamics of geological systems, from the interior of the Earth to its surface  
36 environments on land, in the oceans, and in the air, to planetary systems and the entire  
37 galaxy. Geochemistry emerged as a discipline of its own in 1838 and, since then, acquisi-  
38 tion and analysis of geochemical data have become pervasive in the Earth, environmental,  
39 and planetary sciences (Fairbridge, 1998). Geochemistry is exceedingly diverse with many  
40 recognised subdisciplines, including aqueous, organic, inorganic, isotope, bio- and physical  
41 geochemistry as well as cosmochemistry. Geochemical data have further applications in  
42 many other disciplines including, but not limited to, archaeology, environmental science  
43 and technology, resource exploration and development (groundwater, minerals, energy),  
44 geohealth, oceanography, and agriculture and is relevant to many United Nations Sustain-  
45 able Development Goals (e.g. Bundschuh et al., 2017; Gill, 2017; Alexakis, 2021; Wyborn  
46 and Lehnert, 2021).

47 Geochemical data are incredibly diverse in nature and generally only have two common  
48 attributes: firstly, they are “Long Tail”, i.e. highly variable and small in volume (Heidorn,  
49 2008); and secondly, they are primarily acquired by individual investigators or small teams,  
50 often across multiple organisations and disciplines with uncertain funding sustainability.  
51 Due to this diversity, many geochemical datasets are stored in incompatible and often inac-  
52 cessible silos, e.g., individual computers, locally developed database solutions, or restricted  
53 to figures without accompanying data tables. As a consequence, and despite numerous  
54 data rescue efforts, harnessing the wealth of existing geochemical data is a critical and  
55 ongoing challenge.

56 Although there have been many attempts to improve the aggregation, sharing and  
57 reuse of geochemical data (e.g. Wyborn and Ryborn, 1989; Carbotte and Lehnert, 2007;  
58 Geochemical Society, 2007; Goldstein et al., 2014), present-day practices tend to focus  
59 on building geochemical databases in either personal, institutional, national, or program-  
60 matic silos with a noticeable divide in approaches to data management among sectors  
61 (academia, government, industry). Most of these databases are built for specific research

62 projects and do not offer a long-term sustainable solution. There are very few standard  
63 practices amongst authors and publishers to make data easily shareable and interoperable.  
64 As a result, geochemical data are highly fragmented, blocked from discovery and difficult to  
65 reuse directly from the source dataset without considerable efforts in reformatting the data.  
66 Moreover, the same data are duplicated numerous times into multiple compilations and  
67 credit is rarely given to those who funded, collected, and/or analysed the original datasets.  
68 This fragmentation has a measurable financial impact: the European Commission esti-  
69 mated the annual direct cost of managing non-standardised research data at EUR 10.2bn,  
70 with an additional indirect cost to society of EUR 16bn per year (European Commission,  
71 2018).

## 72 *2.2. Drivers and Rationale for Connecting the Silos*

73 A number of important resources for geochemical and cosmochemical data were es-  
74 tablished during the past 30 years, including EarthChem (<https://earthchem.org/>),  
75 GEOROC (<https://georoc.eu/>), MetBase (<https://metbase.org/>), and the Astroma-  
76 terials Data System (<https://www.astromat.org/>). More recent initiatives are National  
77 Research Infrastructures in Germany (NFDI4Earth), Europe (EPOS), Australia (AuS-  
78 cope), the US (EarthCube), or Norway (NIRD), to name a few. However, walls around  
79 individual data silos remain, hindering simple, inclusive and global access to geochemi-  
80 cal data. To overcome these walls, we must develop common, community-agreed, global  
81 standards for geochemical data and metadata. These standards are critical to making  
82 geochemical data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable to both humans and  
83 machines (FAIR; Wilkinson et al., 2016). Not only will FAIR data standards and curation  
84 procedures increase the value of new data as they are generated and published, they like-  
85 wise have large potential for utilising the significant proportion of unpublished geochemical  
86 data in research and public sectors from the last century.

87 Recognising that mainstream scientific journals were the most effective agents to rec-  
88 tify problems in data reporting and implement best practices, an Editors Roundtable

89 was launched in 2007 as an initiative to bring together editors, publishers, and database  
90 providers to implement consistent publication practices for geochemical data. Academic  
91 societies such as the Geochemical Society also adopted a policy for geochemical data pub-  
92 lication at that time (Geochemical Society, 2007). The Editors Roundtable created and  
93 signed a policy statement in January 2009 (version 1.1) that laid out ‘Requirements for  
94 the Publication of Geochemical Data’ (Goldstein et al., 2014).

95 Recently, the nationally-funded, global data systems EarthChem (USA), GEOROC  
96 (Germany), EPOS-MSL (European Plate Observing System MultiScale Laboratories, Eu-  
97 rope) and AusGeochem (Australia) came together to enable interoperability between their  
98 systems. Yet a vast amount of geochemical data lies outside these initiatives. In re-  
99 sponse to Open Science policies and demands from the scientific community, a Town  
100 Hall meeting on ‘OneGeochemistry: Toward a Global Network of Geochemistry Data’  
101 (<https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting-2019/Events/Data-TH23L>) was held at the AGU  
102 Fall Meeting 2019 to raise awareness of the increasingly urgent need for global standards  
103 and best practices for geochemical data— aiming towards better sharing and linking of  
104 data resources into a global network. The goal of the meeting was to broaden commu-  
105 nity awareness of and participation in the initiative and speakers represented relevant  
106 stakeholders such as geochemical societies, geochemical journal editors, data infrastructure  
107 providers, researchers, and funders. The OneGeochemistry initiative was launched. Since  
108 then, the OneGeochemistry initiative regularly leads and contributes to scientific sessions  
109 during Goldschmidt, EGU and AGU meetings— including a Great Debate and Webinar at  
110 EGU22 (‘Where is my data, where did it come from and how was it obtained? Improving  
111 Access to Geoanalytical Research Data’; [https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/](https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU22/session/42788)  
112 [EGU22/session/42788](https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU22/session/42788); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqjp0ePQU0w>)— as well as  
113 international fora such as SciDataCon and CODATA meetings (e.g. Lehnert et al., 2021;  
114 Wyborn et al., 2021).



### 115 2.3. OneGeochemistry Mission

116 OneGeochemistry is taking action to develop and promote global, community-driven  
117 data conventions and best practices necessary to build a global network of trusted geo-  
118 chemical data. These actions will enable and simplify the (re)use of geochemical data and  
119 accelerate the generation of new geoscientific knowledge and discoveries.

120 Data standardisation begins with community agreement on concepts and vocabularies  
121 used to describe analytical data. Such vocabularies are critical to organise and classify  
122 data: they set out the common terminology. We require experts for each data type to  
123 come together to develop the required vocabularies in both human and machine readable  
124 forms, whilst also integrating existing definitions from the broader geoscience terminology  
125 and other related domains. The community must then agree to use these vocabularies  
126 to refer to their concepts of interest, as well as evolve and govern them as requirements  
127 change.

128 In line with modern informatics best practices, all geochemical data will need to comply  
129 with the FAIR principles of [Wilkinson et al. \(2016\)](#) and be readable by both humans and  
130 machines. OneGeochemistry seeks to make geochemical data outputs as well as related  
131 inputs (including samples, instruments, software codes):

- 132 1. **Findable (F)** through machine-actionable metadata and the systematic use of unique  
133 and persistent identifiers on inputs and outputs;
- 134 2. **Accessible (A)** using standards and internet protocols;
- 135 3. **Interoperable (I)** through common formats that incorporate authoritative and re-  
136 ferrable domain vocabularies; and
- 137 4. **Reusable (R)** through use of rich metadata that provide guidelines on provenance,  
138 quality and uncertainty, that clearly show identity, funders, and provide open licences.

139 It is also essential to ensure compliance with the CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority  
140 to Control, Responsibility, and Ethics) Principles for Indigenous Data Governance to pro-  
141 tect Indigenous rights and interests in Indigenous data (including traditional knowledge),

142 particularly in the sample collection phase (Carroll et al., 2020).

143 Efforts have already been made to set standards for specific analytical data types:  
144 Deines et al. (2003); Demetriades et al. (2020, 2022); Boone et al. (2022); Flowers et al.  
145 (2022); Brantley et al. (2020); Abbott et al. (2022); Horstwood et al. (2016); Dutton et al.  
146 (2017); Walker et al. (2008); Mustaphi et al. (2019); Schaen et al. (2020); Khider et al.  
147 (2019); Damerow et al. (2021). These publications are an excellent first step, however  
148 they only cover a subset of the chemical data types and very few conform with the FAIR  
149 principles that require data to be machine readable. Hence, these standards need to be  
150 converted into the digital space (e.g., the IUPAC Digital Chemistry Initiative; [https://](https://iupac.org/what-we-do/digital-standards/)  
151 [iupac.org/what-we-do/digital-standards/](https://iupac.org/what-we-do/digital-standards/)). A further common sticking point is that  
152 the vocabularies recommended to define each data type are not FAIR and are not available  
153 from online repositories such as Research Vocabularies Australia ([https://vocabs.ardc.](https://vocabs.ardc.edu.au/)  
154 [edu.au/](https://vocabs.ardc.edu.au/)) or FAIRsharing (<https://fairsharing.org/>). There is also no evidence in  
155 most of these papers that the recommended vocabularies have a governance structure in  
156 place that allows them to evolve.

157 OneGeochemistry aims to become an organisation that would coordinate across all geo-  
158 and cosmochemical data types. Fundamental to its approach is ensuring that networking  
159 common components across disciplines still enables a capacity for deeper disciplinary spe-  
160 cialisation. This will be an ongoing, long-term project that must be continually adapted  
161 in line with new or improved developments of data acquisition and with support of, and  
162 commitment from the global geochemical and cosmochemical communities.

### 163 3. Challenges for the Community

164 This paper tackles challenges faced by both the active research community (predomi-  
165 nantly at academic and government institutions) and the data systems that support this  
166 community throughout the research data lifecycle. These data systems can be grouped  
167 into three types: 1) Laboratory Information Management Systems, 2) Repositories, and

168 3) Synthesis Databases. Laboratory Information Management Systems focus on physical  
169 samples and cover the first half of the research data lifecycle from sample collection or  
170 generation to processing and analysis (Fig. 2). Examples of such systems include Aus-  
171 Geochem (<https://www.auscope.org.au/ausgeochem>) and Sparrow ([https://sparrow-  
172 data.org/](https://sparrow-<br/>172 data.org/)). The final data products derived from samples are then published in Reposito-  
173 ries. Generalist repositories, such as Figshare (<https://figshare.com/>), Dryad (<https://datadryad.org/>) or Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/>), publish research outputs irre-  
174 spective of academic discipline. Domain repositories, in contrast, cater to specific disci-  
175 plines or subdisciplines and therefore offer data services targeted to the particular require-  
176 ments of these domains. PANGAEA (<https://www.pangaea.de/>) and GFZ Data Services  
177 (<https://bib.telegrafenberg.de/dataservices/>) are examples of domain repositories  
178 for the Earth Sciences, whilst the EarthChem Library (<https://earthchem.org/ecl/>) or  
179 the GEOROC Data Repository (<https://georoc.eu/>) are domain repositories specifically  
180 for geochemical data. Synthesis Databases compile these individual data publications, as  
181 well as harvesting data from the scientific literature, to enable data discovery and reuse  
182 across multiple datasets. Similar to domain repositories, synthesis databases usually spe-  
183 cialise in a particular subdiscipline or have a geographical focus. AstroMat, GEOROC,  
184 MetBase and PetDB are all examples of synthesis databases. These databases provide  
185 valuable resources not only for further research but also for teaching. Both repositories  
186 and synthesis databases also play an important role in data rescue efforts.

188 In an ideal world, all analytical data produced in a laboratory and subsequently pub-  
189 lished in the scientific literature, would eventually be made available in a federated, global  
190 data system that makes it easy for others to find, access and reuse these data. Features of  
191 such an ideal data system include:

- 192 1. **Relevance & Findability:** A variety of data types are available for all types of  
193 sample material (natural and synthetic). It is easy to combine multiple databases  
194 to search, capture and organise all existing data. These databases contain minimal

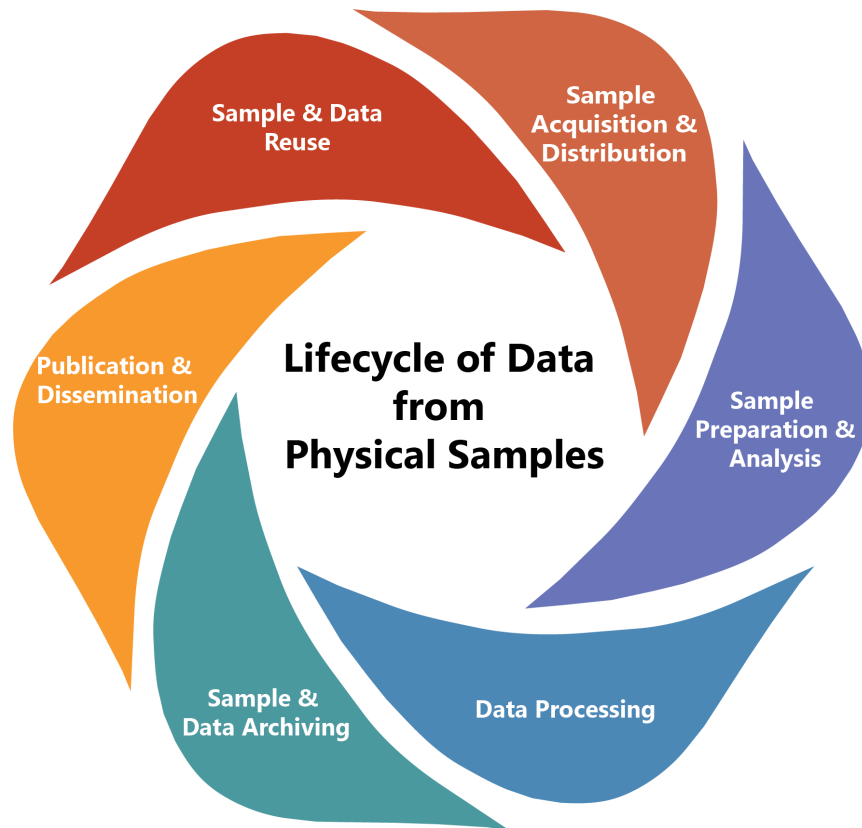


Figure 2: The sample and data life cycle from field to publication to reuse (adapted from [Ramdeen et al., 2022](#)). Tools that support researchers throughout this process include SESAR, a registry for physical samples. AusGeochem or the StraboSpot-Selenocene-Sparrow system of EarthCube support researchers from field acquisition of samples through sample preparation and analysis to publication in a domain repository. Repositories such as the EarthChem Library serve the Archiving and Publication of Data, while synthesis databases such as AstroMat, EarthChem, GEOROC or MetBase facilitate dissemination and data reuse.

195 redundancy and the use of unique identifiers (e.g. DOI, IGSN) allows compilation  
 196 of analyses from the same sample or publication. Database versioning allows repro-  
 197 ducibility of previous searches.

198 2. **Accessibility:** User access is facilitated by optimised complex queries, for example  
 199 through a customisable search engine, visualisation, data analysis and export options.  
 200 Access through standard programming languages guarantees machine-readability.

- 201 3. **Data Quality:** Data are reliable, i.e. they follow a common standard that ensures  
202 availability of rich sample and analytical metadata (e.g. provenance, description of  
203 method and analysis conditions). Completeness of metadata allows assessment of  
204 accuracy and ensures reproducibility.
- 205 4. **Attribution:** Appropriate citation of the people, laboratories, organisations, fun-  
206 ders, research artefacts and data is ensured through use of globally unique, persistent  
207 and resolvable identifiers and compliance with international metadata standards (e.g.  
208 ORCID, ROR, DataCite, Crossref, IGSN).

209 Many of the data systems mentioned above strive to provide such a comprehensive data  
210 infrastructure. It is now increasingly recognised that data and metadata capture should  
211 start with the collection/production of the sample itself, and not only after data publication  
212 (e.g. [Damerow et al., 2021](#)). However, there are many challenges along the path towards  
213 FAIR geochemical data, many of which have been introduced above. One of the goals of  
214 the Goldschmidt 2022 workshop was to investigate these challenges in more detail, so that  
215 appropriate solutions for each of them might be developed. These challenges are rooted  
216 in the current research culture around geoanalytical data, as well as the limitations of the  
217 existing data systems.

### 218 *3.1. Challenges for Researchers*

219 The current research culture in geochemistry means that only few researchers are  
220 willing to share their data ([Chamberlain et al., 2021](#)). Although the recent push for  
221 open science has also benefited the open data landscape, community understanding and  
222 adoption are still centred around individuals. The majority of data producers remain  
223 reluctant to share their data unless forced by journal or funding requirements: the in-  
224 set in Fig. [1](#) shows the rapid increase in submissions to the EarthChem Library after  
225 several of the AGU journals enforced data publications in trusted domain repositories  
226 in 2019 ([https://www.agu.org/Share-and-Advocate/Share/Policy-makers/Position-  
227 Statements/Position\\_Data](https://www.agu.org/Share-and-Advocate/Share/Policy-makers/Position-Statements/Position_Data)). The lack of adoption by the research community is, in part,

228 caused by a number of considerable challenges facing those researchers that are willing to  
229 share their data.

230 Lack of consistent guidelines: Policies on data management vary widely amongst the dif-  
231 ferent funding agencies, institutions, publishers and journals. Funders often require a data  
232 management plan at the proposal stage, yet few enforce these requirements once grants are  
233 approved. Researchers are neither penalised nor rewarded in response to how they manage  
234 their data, prompting the question as to why this requirement exists in the first instance if  
235 there is no mechanism for ensuring compliance. In addition, institutional open access poli-  
236 cies often do not extend to include data or a requirement for machine-readable formats— a  
237 PDF-copy of published journal articles in the institutional repositories is usually enough to  
238 fulfil these guidelines. This effect is compounded by many institutions lacking the resources  
239 to support their researchers in appropriate data management. Finally, the publishing land-  
240 scape is as diverse as the journals available. Each publisher has defined their own policies  
241 on data management, and often these guidelines differ for each journal even with the same  
242 publisher. Springer Nature, Science and AGU are leaders in this respect, requiring data  
243 publication in domain repositories prior to manuscript acceptance, yet each have developed  
244 their own— differing— guidelines on how to comply with this policy. Data journals such  
245 as Data in Brief and Scientific Data also require data submission to (domain) reposi-  
246 tories and, in addition, provide a platform for publishing and describing data that might  
247 otherwise never be made public— for example, data from unfinished or abandoned thesis  
248 projects or those transcribed from old, non-digital formats. However, most other journals  
249 still accept data tables in formats ranging from CSV or XLS to PDF and even JPEG as  
250 part of supplementary materials or they encourage submission to generalist repositories,  
251 such as Figshare, Zenodo or Dryad, where there is no quality control or reporting standard.  
252 Researchers, therefore, are faced with the impossible task of navigating these conflicting  
253 guidelines, and will generally follow the policy of the journal or publisher they submit  
254 to lest their manuscript be rejected. When faced with the complexity of submission to

255 domain repositories (see below), often the publishing option with the lowest workload is  
256 chosen. This behaviour naturally leads to highly heterogeneous data published following  
257 very different standards, in very different formats across a wide range of repositories. In  
258 addition to the many different formats that make data hard to combine and compare,  
259 many datasets remain behind a journal paywall and are very hard to access in the first  
260 place. Data availability “upon request” also remains a popular option. Even for Science,  
261 a journal that adopted an open data policy in 2016, 30% of articles do not publish their  
262 data at all (Yeston, 2021).

263 Complexity of data submission: Good data management takes time. The assembling  
264 and submission of data tables and related information require time and additional effort  
265 outside of the primary process of manuscript submission. Usually, substantial processing  
266 is performed on raw data coming from an analytical instrument. While this processing is a  
267 common research practice, information on data reduction and reference materials used are  
268 often not reported, or only a simplified version is included in the methods or supplementary  
269 information. Yet, reporting this information is crucial for the reproducibility of data and,  
270 therefore, a prerequisite for data submission to domain repositories. This considerable, ad-  
271 ditional investment of research time and resources is often voluntary, and not appropriately  
272 rewarded within the current academic structure. Even though data publications are in-  
273 creasingly visible via (automatic) indexing in ORCID profiles, for example, they are rarely  
274 counted towards the research track record or valued by recruiting and promotion commit-  
275 tees. Whilst assigning DOIs to datasets helps to emphasise the value of data publications,  
276 the lack of awareness in the broader research community means that these publications  
277 are often not appropriately cited. In addition, researchers who consider submitting to  
278 domain repositories are often deterred by the additional processing time before the final  
279 data publication. The EarthChem Library, for example, that specialises in geochemical  
280 data, advises a turnaround time ranging from a few days to up to two weeks. PANGAEA,  
281 a domain repository for all disciplines within the Earth Sciences, has a data publication

282 timeline of three months. Even though there are good reasons for these timelines— mostly  
283 centred around curation as discussed below—, they discourage even more researchers from  
284 publishing their data.

285 Sensitive data: An important consideration within both the FAIR and CARE princi-  
286 ples is how to handle sensitive data that should only be discoverable by certain, authorised  
287 persons or only available after an embargo period. This access control is particularly  
288 important for data produced or funded by industry and for agencies that deal with clas-  
289 sified information. Good technical solutions already exist, simply requiring clear licensing  
290 of datasets and the ability of repositories to handle management of temporary embargo  
291 periods during the publication phase.

292 Variable quality of the available published data: The final issue to be highlighted here  
293 are the considerable challenges caused by a lack of standard formats for publishing geo-  
294 chemical data, which often precludes quality assessment and, therefore, reuse of published  
295 data. Common issues include: dead links or non-existent supplementary material; errors  
296 in data reporting; lack of reproducibility due to missing analytical information; and the  
297 use of abbreviations only understood by the owner of the dataset. Data quality assessment  
298 is often impossible due to a lack of analytical details or measures of uncertainties, includ-  
299 ing inconsistent units on uncertainty reporting (e.g. standard deviations, standard errors,  
300 confidence interval,  $1\sigma$  vs.  $2\sigma$  errors, etc.). When compiling data from multiple sources,  
301 additional challenges include inconsistent, non-standardised terminology (e.g. eclogite vs  
302 arclogite) and missing units of measurement. Finally, the original owner, funder, and/or  
303 creator of the data are rarely credited in synthesis or compiled datasets.

### 304 *3.2. Challenges for Data Systems*

305 Some of the challenges for researchers detailed above are related to current limitations  
306 of data repositories and synthesis databases. One major issue lies with the resources avail-  
307 able to these data systems and the sustainability of funding. Long-term staffing solutions  
308 for data curators that assist researchers with data submissions are vital for data systems.



309 The advantage of publishing data in domain repositories is that the research data are doc-  
310 umented in a format specific to the discipline and the respective data type, which ensures  
311 that data quality can be easily assessed and data users have greater trust in individual  
312 datasets. By collecting data in domain repositories, they are also more visible and easier  
313 to discover for others in the field, leading to greater reuse— and ultimately citation— of  
314 these data.

315 Yet in order to consistently provide this service, domain repositories need to employ cu-  
316 rators with domain expertise who carefully review each data submission. Many researchers  
317 of today are not familiar with proper data management, and hence data submissions are  
318 not consistent: column headers are not standardised, there are spelling errors, inconsistent  
319 text, and widespread use of non-standard abbreviations. While it takes the researchers a  
320 considerable amount of time to collate this information, repository curators then need to  
321 invest further time to convert submissions to their internal standard and ensure all data  
322 and metadata are transparent and easy to understand by third parties.

323 More often than not, repositories are not funded for this additional work and are strug-  
324 gling with staffing issues. This issue arises because many of the data systems catering to a  
325 specific domain were born out of research projects that succeeded in attracting additional  
326 funding to further develop their infrastructure. However, this funding is usually temporary  
327 and restricted to the development of new technologies or services— system maintenance  
328 and curation are rarely funded by national science foundations. What is more, these data  
329 systems compete for funding with researchers within their domain. Far too often, data sys-  
330 tems that are widely used by the research community are orphaned because of discontinued  
331 funding: MetPetDB, SedDB and NAVDAT are all pertinent examples of such systems that  
332 are no longer maintained, and at worst are no longer available to the community.

333 The availability of resources is intricately linked with community-uptake of domain  
334 repository services. For many data systems, it is an ongoing struggle to entice more  
335 researchers to submit their data, something which they require as an indicator for their

336 success and continued funding. With additional resources, data systems could better raise  
337 awareness within the community, as well as expand their user support, in turn increasing  
338 the number of datasets submitted by researchers. Ideally, resources would also be allocated  
339 to provide training materials and build guided workflows that operate across repositories  
340 and other publication platforms to make it easy for researchers to follow best practices.

#### 341 4. Approaches to similar challenges in other communities

342 In analytical science, particularly where the same data type is collected by multiple  
343 laboratories and institutions, informed decisions on whether or how to (re)use any digital  
344 analytical dataset is dependent on a consideration of what practices have been used to  
345 obtain the data and the provision of information about the quality specifications (Peng  
346 et al., 2022). The following summarises successful approaches to data standardisation and  
347 quality assurance in other communities.

##### 348 4.1. Crystallography

349 Crystallography has a long history of discipline standardisation starting with develop-  
350 ment of the Crystallographic Information Framework (CIF) in 1991 under the auspices of  
351 the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr). The CIF standard is a general, flexible  
352 and easily extensible free-format archive file that was designed to be a machine-readable  
353 standard for submissions to Acta Crystallographica and to crystallographic databases (Hall  
354 et al., 1991). A CIF dictionary also stores the name, version, and time of update thus  
355 enabling precise citation of the standards used to support a particular data set (Hall and  
356 Cook, 1995; Hall and McMahon, 2016). Domain repositories (Bruno et al., 2017; Groom  
357 et al., 2016; Bergerhoff and Brown, 1987; Berman et al., 2003) ensure the long term preser-  
358 vation and access to derived results and processed data published in standard formats,  
359 and support joint workflows with journal publishers that lower technical barriers to data  
360 publication by researchers. Further, domain repositories provide services that enable the  
361 discovery and reuse of both data and derived knowledge across domains in academia and

362 industry (Taylor and Wood, 2019). The IUCr is taking a lead in ensuring that the preser-  
363 vation of raw diffraction data is viable at a number of distributed and centralised data  
364 archives, each of which registers a dataset and uniquely identifies it with a persistent  
365 identifier (Kroon-Batenburg et al., 2022). The IUCr provides tools with online validation  
366 checks (Spek, 2020) and validation of the data is part of the peer review process for jour-  
367 nals. Some journals that publish papers on crystallography also sponsor the development  
368 of validation tools.

#### 369 4.2. Chemistry

370 The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) has a record of over  
371 100 years in fostering a global consensus to define and develop a common and systematic  
372 nomenclature for chemistry. IUPAC has developed the International Chemical Identifier  
373 (InChI; Heller et al., 2013), a non-proprietary identifier for chemical substances that pro-  
374 vides a standard way to encode molecular information. IUPAC has also produced a series  
375 of colour books that standardise nomenclature, including books for

##### 376 1. Naming Chemical Structures

- 377 • Blue Book: Nomenclature of Organic Chemistry
- 378 • Red Book: Nomenclature of Inorganic Chemistry
- 379 • White Book: Biochemical Nomenclature

##### 380 2. Describing Chemistry Concepts:

- 381 • Orange Book: Terminology for Analytical Methods
- 382 • Purple Book: Polymer Terminology and Nomenclature
- 383 • Silver Book: Properties in Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- 384 • Green Book: Quantities, Units and Symbols in Physical Chemistry

385 Other IUPAC initiatives include the Gold Book Compendium of Chemical Terminology  
386 (<https://goldbook.iupac.org/>), the Commission on Isotopic Abundances and Atomic

387 Weights (<https://www.ciaaw.org/>) and the Machine Actionable Periodic Table (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ptable/>). Advancement of digital activities and strategy  
388 within IUPAC largely sits with the Committee on Publications and Cheminformatics Data  
389 Standards. IUPAC is currently transforming from a Centre of Excellence for Chemistry  
390 Standards to a Centre of Excellence for Digital Chemistry Standards. Many of their digital  
391 standards could be leveraged by the global geochemistry community (Stall et al., 2020).  
392

#### 393 4.3. Seismology

394 Another example in the development of global community standards for a geoscience  
395 data type has been the International Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks (FDSN;  
396 <https://www.fdsn.org/>). The FDSN began in 1984 when multiple countries agreed to  
397 create a global network around those using broadband instrumentation compatible with  
398 community developed specifications (Dziewonski, 1994). In 1987 expert groups within the  
399 FDSN were instrumental in the development of a universal standard for the distribution  
400 of broadband waveform data and related parametric information, the SEED (Standard for  
401 Exchange of Earthquake Data) format. The SEED format was adopted by instrument  
402 manufacturers and has since gone through several evolutions. The FDSN also developed a  
403 specification that defines RESTful web service interfaces for accessing common FDSN data  
404 types online and publishes a list of Federated Data Centres that provide FDSN-compliant  
405 web services (<https://www.fdsn.org/webservices/datacenters/>). Network operators  
406 can apply for FDSN Network codes through the FDSN website to provide unique identifiers  
407 for seismological data streams, which are required in publications to uniquely identify and  
408 attribute the networks that generated the data (Evans et al., 2015).

#### 409 4.4. Geological Map Data

410 In 2003, the GeoSciML (Geoscience Markup Language) project was initiated under the  
411 auspices of the Commission for Geoscience Information (CGI) working group on Data  
412 Model Collaboration and endorsed by the International Union of Geological Sciences.

413 GeoSciML is an XML-based data transfer standard for the exchange of digital geoscientific  
414 information, which is mainly focussed on the representation and description of features  
415 found on geological maps, but is extensible to other geoscience data such as drilling, sam-  
416 pling and analytical data (Sen and Duffy, 2005). In 2007, GeoSciML was adopted by the  
417 OneGeology initiative to underpin and improve the accessibility of global, regional and  
418 national geological map data (Jackson and Wyborn, 2008).

#### 419 4.5. *The Oceans Best Practice System and IODP*

420 The Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS, [www.oceanbestpractices.org](http://www.oceanbestpractices.org)), is an initia-  
421 tive of the global Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, sup-  
422 ported by the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and  
423 the Global Oceans Observing System (GOOS). The OBPS site supports technological so-  
424 lutions and community approaches to ensure FAIR methods and associated data and to  
425 facilitate the development, documentation and sharing of ocean best practices. As of 1  
426 November 2022, the OBPS site contains 1728 best practice documents from 52 institu-  
427 tions/organisations: as new documents are submitted, they are reviewed and endorsed by  
428 expert teams (Przeslawski et al., 2022).

429 Each institution/organisation can submit their best practice documents including qual-  
430 ity documents specific to their data acquisition programs. The Australian Integrated Ma-  
431 rine Observing System (IMOS), operates a wide range of observing equipment throughout  
432 Australia's coastal and open oceans and makes all of its data openly and freely accessi-  
433 ble. Documents related to the quality of their datasets, including quality specifications,  
434 quality evaluation, execution and dissemination are published by IMOS on the interna-  
435 tional OBPS site (Ruth and Atkins, 2022, [https://repository.oceanbestpractices.  
436 org/handle/11329/556](https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/handle/11329/556)). Publication of best practice documents in a single site from so  
437 many organisations leads to convergence and ultimately globalisation of best practices,  
438 meaning that a practice can be accessible and usable in multiple regions, while at the  
439 same time, best practices can be adapted to match regional infrastructure capabilities

440 (Przeslawski et al., 2022).

441 The International Oceans Drilling Program (IODP, the successor of the Ocean Drilling  
442 Program, ODP; <https://www.iodp.org/>) further requires that samples collected on their  
443 cruises are archived in one of three recommended repositories. Access to samples is open  
444 and transparent to scientists, educators, museums and outreach officers, but regulated by  
445 strict policies that ensure their appropriate use and specify the reporting of any research  
446 outcomes derived from these samples ([https://www.iodp.org/top-resources/program-  
447 documents/policies-and-guidelines/519-iodp-sample-data-and-obligations-policy-  
448 implementation-guidelines-may-2018-for-expeditions-starting-october-2018-and-  
449 later/file](https://www.iodp.org/top-resources/program-documents/policies-and-guidelines/519-iodp-sample-data-and-obligations-policy-implementation-guidelines-may-2018-for-expeditions-starting-october-2018-and-later/file)). These outcomes are made available through the integrated data and publi-  
450 cation portal SEDIS (Scientific Earth Drilling Information System; [http://sedis.iodp.  
451 org/](http://sedis.iodp.org/)).

#### 452 *4.6. What can be learned from these initiatives?*

453 The examples from crystallography, chemistry, seismology, geology and oceanography  
454 show that it is indeed possible to unite a community and together define, implement and  
455 enforce best practices and standards for data reporting at an international level. The  
456 geochemical and cosmochemical communities can benefit by implementing many common  
457 threads outlined in the above initiatives, including:

- 458 1. Securing endorsements from recognised, authoritative sources;
- 459 2. Establishing expert working groups for developing data standards and regularly up-  
460 dating these standards as additional requirements emerge;
- 461 3. Publishing community-agreed, time-stamped standards and vocabularies online in  
462 both human and machine-readable formats in governed, sustainable repositories;
- 463 4. Connecting with funding agencies to adopt commonly defined standards and enforce  
464 research data management plans and data submissions;
- 465 5. Connecting with publishers and editors to enforce compliance with data standards  
466 within publications;

- 467 6. Developing and implementing tools that validate data standards compliance;
- 468 7. Enforcing data submission to domain repositories that work with publishers to im-  
469 plement standards and ensure long-term preservation and increased discoverability  
470 of data;
- 471 8. Adoption of standard data and file formats by instrument manufacturers;
- 472 9. Developing education and outreach programs to disseminate existing standards and  
473 best practices for data users and contributors;
- 474 10. Incorporating data management into the undergraduate curriculum.

## 475 **5. The Path Forward: OneGeochemistry**

476 During the workshop at Goldschmidt 2022, organisers and participants discussed pos-  
477 sible solutions to the aforementioned challenges. The options promising the highest short-  
478 term impact are: official endorsement of the OneGeochemistry initiative; establishment of  
479 expert working groups to collect and define best practices for each data type; and a broad  
480 education and outreach programme that highlights the benefits of community engagement  
481 in this issue. Each of these strategies is discussed in detail below.

### 482 *5.1. Endorsement*

483 Standards and data management should be developed bottom-up but need to be en-  
484 forced top-down. As a consequence, OneGeochemistry is pursuing endorsement from (i)  
485 societies, (ii) publishers, (iii) funders and (iv) instrument manufacturers to gain authority  
486 for the initiative and thus increase community participation.

#### 487 *5.1.1. Societies and Unions*

488 The heterogeneity of geochemical data and the multiple purposes that geochemistry can  
489 be used for, has resulted in geochemistry being a part of at least four International Sci-  
490 ence Council (ISC) Science Unions and tens, if not hundreds, of geochemical associations,  
491 societies, and commissions at both international and national level. The four main unions

492 that are relevant to geochemical and cosmochemical data include the International Union  
493 of Geological Sciences (IUGS), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG),  
494 International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) and the International Union of Pure and  
495 Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

496 OneGeochemistry is proposing to form a CODATA Working Group to bring together  
497 all the disparate initiatives that are happening in geochemistry across Scientific Unions,  
498 Associations, Societies and Commissions. The OneGeochemistry interim board has applied  
499 to the following seven international geochemical societies and associations for endorsement  
500 of this work: Geochemical Society, European Association of Geochemistry, International  
501 Association of Geoanalysts, International Association of Geochemists, Association of Ap-  
502 plied Geochemists, IUGS Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines and Meteoritical  
503 Society. Further national and/or sub-disciplinary societies will be contacted in the future  
504 and the OneGeochemistry board is open to additional suggestions and recommendations  
505 from the community.

#### 506 *5.1.2. Publishers*

507 OneGeochemistry will continue the discussion with journal publishers and editors to  
508 raise awareness for the need for geochemistry data standards to be enforced. The Commit-  
509 ment Statement developed by the Coalition for Publishing Data in the Earth and Space Sci-  
510 ences (COPDESS; [https://copdess.org/enabling-fair-data-project/commitment-  
511 statement-in-the-earth-space-and-environmental-sciences/](https://copdess.org/enabling-fair-data-project/commitment-statement-in-the-earth-space-and-environmental-sciences/)) has united many of  
512 the repositories, publishers, societies, institutions and infrastructure in an agreement to  
513 uphold minimum standards. OneGeochemistry will build upon this commitment and work  
514 towards establishing domain repositories as trusted data publishers that collaborate with  
515 journals and publishers to ensure that data submitted to a journal comply with agreed  
516 community standards and the FAIR principles.



### 517 5.1.3. Funders

518 As a community we need to communicate with the national and regional funding agen-  
519 cies to alert them to our requirements for data management. Many funders have FAIR data  
520 policies but most do not yet enforce them or check compliance. In addition, funders play an  
521 important role in guiding the academic credit system. For example, the German Research  
522 Foundation (DFG) recently changed their rules to recognise article preprints, data sets  
523 or software packages as research outcomes, which is an important and positive signal to  
524 the scientific community ([https://www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/announcements\\_  
525 proposals/2022/info\\_wissenschaft\\_22\\_61/index.html](https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/announcements_proposals/2022/info_wissenschaft_22_61/index.html)).

### 526 5.1.4. Instrument Manufacturers

527 At Goldschmidt 2022, members of the OneGeochemistry interim board connected with  
528 some of the geochemical instrument manufacturers, who were very supportive of the ini-  
529 tiative and committed to implementing community-agreed data, metadata and formatting  
530 standards once they were developed and accepted. As shown by the example from the seis-  
531 mological community, support and adoption by instrument manufacturers of community-  
532 agreed data standards, aided by common file formats, is crucial to their widespread imple-  
533 mentation within laboratories. The increasing adoption of electronic laboratory notebooks,  
534 for example, could be exploited to implement data standards and provide a direct data  
535 pipeline into certified domain repositories.

### 536 5.2. Expert Working Groups

537 There are multiple different standards currently in use and a growing number of pub-  
538 lications aim to establish agreement on minimum variables and vocabularies for various  
539 geochemical data types (Table 1). Effective development of scientific standards requires a  
540 participatory framework with a need for ongoing, open dialogue within and across research  
541 communities (Yarmey and Baker, 2013). The larger the size of the community that agrees  
542 and commits to a particular standard, the larger the community that can share and reuse

543 data, particularly in machine-to-machine environments. Hence, to enable global data ex-  
544 change, we need to harmonise and curate these existing standards through a number of  
545 expert working groups that are endorsed and/or recognised by authoritative, international  
546 geochemical societies and unions. The task of these expert working groups would be to  
547 develop standards for each distinct analytical technique or related groups of analytical  
548 methods. A working group would be made up of experts within a specific method that are  
549 representative of the diversity of users for each data type, including geographical regions,  
550 institutions and career levels.

551 OneGeochemistry's role could be to facilitate regular workshops or hackathons to de-  
552 velop, improve and disseminate best practice recommendations and invite feedback from  
553 the wider community. In a first step, OneGeochemistry would work with the wider com-  
554 munity to determine which data types require standards/vocabularies and which analytical  
555 methods are currently in use or have been used in the past for each data type. The role of  
556 the expert working groups would then be to:

- 557 1. Compile lists of existing standards or best practices (including data models and  
558 vocabularies) and ensure they are in the public domain;
- 559 2. Review neighbouring fields and disciplines that have already defined data standards  
560 to ensure interoperability (e.g. IUPAC terminologies, government agencies or indus-  
561 try standards);
- 562 3. Provide governance to existing standards and harmonise where possible;
- 563 4. Continuously monitor and update each agreed upon standard;
- 564 5. Develop new data standards where required.

565 A successful example of an expert working group in geochemistry is the Tephra Commu-  
566 nity that has developed data submission templates for the EarthChem Library. EarthChem  
567 has further recently started a working group to develop a method directory. Whilst we  
568 acknowledge the risk that this modular approach might further divide the community, we  
569 propose that it is the most viable solution to: 1) Involve the community in the process

570 of developing data standards; 2) Provide well-defined, feasible work packages with clear  
571 credit/reward/outcome that will motivate community-participation; and 3) Give authority  
572 to the standards developed to ensure they are accepted by the wider community.

573 OneGeochemistry has been offered the Brown Book by IUPAC as part of their Colour  
574 Books Series described above. This resource will be invaluable not only in document-  
575 ing nomenclature defined by the geochemical expert working groups but also in ensuring  
576 that relevant, existing digital chemical standards are leveraged wherever possible (e.g., the  
577 Machine-Accessible Periodic Table).

### 578 *5.3. Incentives, Education & Outreach*

579 We recognise that a critical component for the success of OneGeochemistry is increas-  
580 ing outreach and dissemination while establishing appropriate incentives that invite more  
581 community members to join. A surprising outcome of the Goldschmidt 2022 workshop was  
582 the observation how poorly known the existing data systems are, especially among early  
583 career researchers. Options for increased community engagement include:

584 1. Attribution and advertising of OneGeochemistry and the existing geochemical data  
585 systems in research outputs through:

- 586 • citation of data systems in publications following citation guidelines and tem-  
587 plates provided by the systems
- 588 • Encouraging the addition of data system logos to presentation materials (e.g.  
589 conference slides, poster, graphical abstract)
- 590 • Where tools for plotting or analysis are provided by data systems, resulting  
591 figures should be watermarked

592 2. Virtual activities and resources

- 593 • Maintaining and increasing a social media presence (e.g. Twitter, LinkedIn);
- 594 • Using blog posts, webinars and a dedicated YouTube channel to disseminate  
595 tutorials and teach data management skills

- 596
- Organising data hackathons
- 597
- Developing ready-to-use teaching lessons, materials, slides and exercises to in-
- 598
- crease use of databases in teaching (e.g. ask lecturers globally to “publish” and
- 599
- share their materials, and promote the teaching materials to lecturers). Seek
- 600
- collaborations with dedicated educational initiatives, such as NAGT (<http://www.nagt.org>)
- 601
- and SERC (<https://serc.carleton.edu/index.html>).

### 602 3. Workshops and Data-Mentoring

- Continue hosting workshops at scientific conferences (e.g., Goldschmidt, GSA, AGU, EGU), where future expert working groups present their progress and liaise with the wider community
- 603
- Contributing to the Data Help Desks coordinated by ESIP at major Earth Sci-
- 604
- ence conferences such as AGU, EGU, Geological Society of America ([https://](https://www.esipfed.org/data-help-desk)
- 605
- [www.esipfed.org/data-help-desk](https://www.esipfed.org/data-help-desk)) and holding Data FAIR workshops ([https://](https://data.agu.org/datafair/)
- 606
- [data.agu.org/datafair/](https://data.agu.org/datafair/))
- 607
- Integrating data management into mentoring schemes at these conferences
- 608
- Implementing inter-institution and international data mentoring programs that
- 609
- also focus on available resources in the communities
- 610
- 611
- 612

613 **OneGeochemistry ambassadors** will be recruited to assist with these activities and

614 initiatives. Ambassadors are envisaged as mid-career, cutting-edge researchers that pro-

615 mote good data management following current best practices and standards. Assisted by

616 the OneGeochemistry board members, ambassadors will spread awareness in the commu-

617 nities of the importance of data management in geo- and cosmochemistry, the existing

618 landscape of data systems, and inspire new and future generations to contribute.

619 While communicating and advertising OneGeochemistry, we must also be aware of

620 motivations and incentives (or disincentives) to contribute to standard development, data

621 publication and global databases for each stakeholder. These incentives will differ between

622 different groups in the community (Fig. 3). The focus is on engaging:

- 623 • **Publishers and editors** who ensure peer review, storage and release of datasets in  
624 certified domain repositories prior to publication.
- 625 • **Funding agencies** who require compliance with certified standards, and provide  
626 necessary funds for data curation and staff.
- 627 • **Data repositories** who are key to storing, curating and making geoanalytical data  
628 FAIR.
- 629 • **Government surveys/agencies** who have a long history of generating and archiv-  
630 ing publicly funded research data as well as industry data.
- 631 • **Professional societies/science unions/associations** who can both endorse and  
632 help to promote the standards/best practices.
- 633 • **Instrument manufacturers** who can ensure any data generated with their instru-  
634 ments and output by their software are compliant with standards.
- 635 • **Laboratory managers** and other geoanalytical data producers to ensure consis-  
636 tency and quality of geochemical data at the point of generation.
- 637 • **Researchers** who generate, (re)use and publish geochemical data.

638 For *researchers*, the main incentive for engaging in good data management practices is  
639 credit received towards their scientific track record. As more funding, recruitment and pro-  
640 motion bodies start considering more than journal publications as a measurable research  
641 output, data publications in domain repositories will gain importance. OneGeochemistry  
642 and/or its member data systems could further support researchers through acknowledging  
643 the number and quality of individual contributions on their websites or, as is common  
644 practice with software, through regular version releases. Tracking of citations to data  
645 publications independently of a related research paper will provide an additional measure



Figure 3: The place of OneGeochemistry within the broader research data landscape (adapted from [OECD, 2017](#)). Each group of stakeholders has different needs and motives for contributing to or enforcing FAIR data practices. Blue circles symbolise the role of OneGeochemistry in coordinating expert working groups and facilitating education and ambassadorship.

646 of impact of specific research outputs. Tracking data citations is also a convenient way  
 647 for *funders*, *institutions* and *laboratories* to measure their impact. For *instrument man-*  
 648 *ufacturers*, clear guidance for data and file formats through community-agreed standards  
 649 would significantly reduce the resources spent on developing custom data formats for each  
 650 analytical instrument. At the same time, proprietary file formats need not be forfeited as  
 651 long as final data outputs follow the community-agreed standards.

652 Industry, such as mining or environmental companies, have been omitted from the list

653 above even though they likely produce far larger data volumes than both academic and  
654 governmental communities and might have the human and financial resources to quickly  
655 develop and implement data standards. However, some countries like Australia require that  
656 all data be made available to local geological surveys after a certain time period— providing  
657 an incentive to comply with the common data standards to facilitate data sharing, whilst  
658 still ensuring a competitive advantage through time-limited, confidential agreements.

## 659 **6. Conclusions**

660 There is an urgent need in the geochemistry and cosmochemistry communities to de-  
661 fine data-type specific best practices and standards for reporting geoanalytical data. Only  
662 once these best practices exist and are followed, will geoanalytical data become easy to  
663 find, trust and reuse for education or further data-driven research that is increasingly  
664 employed to tackle the next big scientific questions. We propose OneGeochemistry as a  
665 community-driven initiative that can enact this change by building a global, online net-  
666 work of machine-readable data that is persistent, interoperable and reusable and above  
667 all, minimises duplication of the same data. Such a system will also ensure reliable ci-  
668 tation for those who collected, analysed, curated and made accessible any geochemical  
669 and cosmochemical data. Endorsement by societies, publishers and funders will give One-  
670 Geochemistry the authority to establish expert working groups that develop and promote  
671 best practices and standards for specific data types. We will seek to increase community  
672 engagement through active outreach and dissemination.

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## 687 **Appendix A. Supplementary Material**

688 The Supplementary Material contains additional information on the Goldschmidt 2022  
689 workshop “Earth Science meets Data Science: what are our needs for geochemical data, ser-  
690 vices and analytical capabilities in the 21st century?”, including the workshop programme,  
691 details on the participating data systems and the complete list of contributors.

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# Supplementary Material for manuscript “Community recommendations for geochemical data, services and analytical capabilities in the 21st century”

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## S1. Goldschmidt 2022 Workshop

The workshop [“Earth Science meets Data Science: what are our needs for geochemical data, services and analytical capabilities in the 21st century?”](#) was held at the Goldschmidt Conference 2022 (hybrid format). The goals of this workshop were to:

1. Explore scientific challenges in geochemistry;
2. Showcase examples of existing data solutions/infrastructures/services; and
3. Discuss recommendations, best practices and essential features of a globally standardised geochemical data framework;

The primary focus of the workshop lay on exploring the data and infrastructure requirements for addressing future scientific challenges through keynote seminars, breakout working groups, panel and open discussions. In addition, two dedicated tutorials demonstrated the features and capabilities of the EarthChem, GEOROC (DIGIS) and AusGeochem (AuScope Geochemistry Network) data systems, inviting feedback from participants.

Contribution to this workshop gave participants the opportunity to voice their needs directly to the platform and repository creators/managers. Participants benefited from discussions around data transparency, best practices, big data synthesis and inter-laboratory analytical comparisons, actively contributing to bring about a cultural change in the geochemistry community. All workshop organisers and participants have been invited to contribute to this paper (see [Section S1.3](#) for a detailed list of contributors and their roles).

## S1.1 Workshop Programme

<b>Day 0 (8 July, 6:00-10:00 HADT): EarthChem &amp; GEOROC tutorial</b>	
06:00-06:15	Welcome & Introductions
06:15-06:45	Overview of Systems
06:45-08:15	Accessing Data
08:15-08:45	Coffee Break
08:45-09:00	Sample Management & Identification
09:00-10:00	Publishing Data
<b>Day 1 (9 July, 10:00-17:00 HADT): Main Workshop</b>	
10:00-10:15	Welcome & Introductions
10:15-11:00	Keynote 1: Sarah Lambart ( <a href="#">slides</a> )
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-12:00	Keynote 2: Ian Bruno ( <a href="#">slides</a> )
12:00-12:45	Round-the-Table Discussion: expectations for this workshop
12:45-13:45	Lunch Break
13:45-14:45	Break-out Session 1: what are requirements for geochemical data?
14:45-15:15	Introduction to OneGeochemistry and the landscape of existing data resources and standards (Lesley Wyborn, <a href="#">slides</a> )
15:15-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-16:45	Break-out Session 2: how can we achieve these requirements?
16:45-17:00	Final Words & Way Forward

<b>Day 2 (10 July, 12:00-17:00 HADT): AusGeochem tutorial</b>	
12:00-13:00	Rooftop Lunch (in-person participants)
13:00 - 13:45	Introduction to Day 3 and hosts; What is the AGN, Goals of the AGN and The AusGeochem Platform
13:45 - 14:30	Technical Creation of the Platform
14:30 - 16:45	Exercise 1: AusGeochem Landing Page, Registration and Demonstration
	Exercise 2: Adding and Minting a Sample - Single sample upload to a created package - attach data to that sample - visualize data in map and interrogate data through various drop downs.
	Coffee Break
	Exercise 3: Adding Geochemical Data to Created Sample: Single sample upload to - created package - attach data to that sample - visualize data in map and interrogate data through various drop downs.
16:45 - 17:00	AusGeochem into the Future - Developments/Outlook

## S1.2 Participating Data Systems

**EarthChem** is a disciplinary data facility established in 2003 that curates and provides open access to geochemical and petrological observations in digital data collections. Between 2010 and 2020, EarthChem has operated as part of the Interdisciplinary Earth Data Alliance (IEDA), and since 2022 within the reimagined IEDA2, both supported by the US National Science Foundation. EarthChem provides data stewardship services for a broad community of Earth and environmental scientists, including data publishing through the trusted repository service of the EarthChem Library, and data access and mining through synthesis databases (PetDB, EarthChem Portal, Library of Experimental Phase Relations, and the Decade Volcano Portal). EarthChem also established best practices for geochemical and sample-based data through the Editors Roundtable (Goldstein et al. 2014), which led to the Coalition for Publishing Data in the Earth & Space Sciences COPDESS (Hanson et al. 2015, Lehnert & Hsu 2015) that continues to advance best practices for data in scholarly publications and provided the foundation for the AGU project “Enabling FAIR Data” (Stall et al. 2017). EarthChem applications and data holdings can be accessed at <https://earthchem.org>.

The **GEOROC** (*Geochemistry of Rocks of the Oceans and Continents*) database contains published geochemical analyses of whole rocks, glasses, minerals and inclusions from eleven different geological settings across the world. It was set up by the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany, and has been available online since the end of 1999. The database provides free access to >32 million individual values of major and trace element concentrations, radiogenic and nonradiogenic isotope ratios as well as analytical ages, compiled from >20,600 published scientific articles. In addition to the chemical analyses, extensive metadata describing the publication, sample and analytical method are stored. Together with PetDB and EarthChem, GEOROC developed a data and metadata schema for geochemical analyses (Lehnert et al., 2000). GEOROC is a key data contributor to the EarthChem Portal, hosted by IEDA2. Since 2021, GEOROC also provides a domain data repository that enables data submissions by the community. The GEOROC database is currently maintained by the Digital Geochemical Data Infrastructure ([DIGIS](#)) initiative at the University of Göttingen. It can be accessed at <https://georoc.eu>.

The **AusGeochem** platform was developed by the AuScope Geochemistry Network (AGN) and collaborator Lithodat to facilitate better organisation, coordination and ability to share data produced by Australian geochemistry laboratories. It differs from EarthChem and GEOROC in that it focuses on collecting data directly from the laboratories, although users can upload existing datasets. The AGN is funded by AuScope, Australia’s provider of infrastructure to the Earth and Geospatial Sciences in Australia, aiming to create wide and open access to earth and geospatial science infrastructure to drive research across government, institutions and industry. AuScope is funded by the Australian Government under the National Collaborative Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). As more and more data are produced in laboratories each day, the amount of data that becomes available for the scientific community through publications represents only the tip of the iceberg, with an appreciable amount of data abandoned on USB or hard disk drives. Therefore, the AGN aimed to build a platform that caters to laboratories, laboratory users and technical staff to make it easier to upload data directly from the instrument into a relational publicly accessible

database. When users upload sample metadata to AusGeochem, laboratory staff performing the analyses can upload the finished data directly into the platform, simultaneously linking the analyses to the sample metadata. With the ability to give samples unique codes and labels through an IGSN minting service, perform statistical analyses, novel capabilities to visualise and synthesise data within the context of large volumes of laboratory generated publicly funded geochemical data, the database simultaneously performs the function of repository and acts as a place for collaboration, interrogation and dissemination of high value geochemistry datasets. The platform links the private, collaborative and public domains. The AusGeochem platform can be accessed at <https://ausgeochem.auscope.org.au>.

## S1.3 Workshop Contributors

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Workshop Role</b>	<b>Interest in this topic</b>
Marthe Klöcking	Göttingen University; GEOROC	Organiser	
Kerstin Lehnert	Columbia University; IEDA2, EarthChem	Organiser	
Alexander Prent	Curtin University, AusGeochem	Organiser	
Lucia Profeta	Columbia University; IEDA2, EarthChem	Organiser	
Bryant Ware	Curtin University, AusGeochem	Organiser	
Fabian Kohlmann	Lithodat, AusGeochem	Tutorial organiser	
Wayne Noble	Lithodat, AusGeochem	Tutorial organiser	
Lesley Wyborn	Australian National University	Organiser; invited keynote speaker	Where to start on developing machine-actionable standards and vocabularies for geochemical data
Ian Bruno	CCDC	Participant; invited keynote speaker	To share experiences from chemistry and crystallography and learn about common challenges
Sarah Lambart	University of Utah	Participant; invited keynote speaker	Know how I can become a contributor - learn about new developments
Halimulati Ananuer	Macquarie University	Participant	Geochemical database and management
Michael Badawi	University of Lorraine	Participant	
Nicholas Barber	University of Cambridge	Participant	Interested in statistical treatments of large geochemical datasets
Harry Becker	Freie Universität Berlin	Participant	Metadata in data repositories

Maurice Brodbeck	Trinity College Dublin	Participant	What is good geochemical data? Reporting standards. Access and use of platforms.
Hang Deng	Peking University	Participant	Learn more about open access geochemical database
Kai Deng	ETH Zurich	Participant	Geochemical data compilation and reuse
Gabriel Franco	University of South Carolina	Participant	Getting and insider's perspective on the main geochemistry databases
Yajie Gao	Australian National University	Participant	Learn more about open database
Khalid Mohammed Ghasera	Aligarh Muslim University	Participant	Big data resources
Jingyi Huang	Johns Hopkins University	Participant	learn about how this data system works and how data managed
Buchanan Kerswell	Miami University	Participant	Student research
Jieun Kim	Northwestern University	Participant	Available geochemical databases
Hilde Koch	University College Dublin	Participant	Reliability of Geochemical Data of Database. Is it possible to get access to raw data? How can you make existing databases more visible?
Anthony Lanati	University Münster and Macquarie University	Participant	Ethical use of the databases, as well as contributing data and ensuring my data is FAIR
Nadia Martínez-Villegas	IPICYT	Participant	Learn about opendatabase and how to better report and manage data
Nicolas Randazzo	McMaster University	Participant	Interested in Big Data and wanted to learn more about data repositories
Ahmad Redaa	King Abdulaziz University	Participant	Learn about open access sources of geological datasets



Wiebke Schäfer	Friedrich-Alexander University	Participant	How to make my data accessible and pros and cons of making data accessible to everyone
Megan Swing	University of Toronto/ Royal Ontario Museum	Participant	Learning more about the the types of databases other researchers use
Marie Katrine Traun	University of Copenhagen	Participant	Integrating better data practices in data collection and laboratories and exploring the potential of big data geochemical studies with advanced statistics
Jo Whelan	Northern Territory Geological Survey	Participant	Learn about the data models, vocabularies and standards that are being applied with a view to ensure that the Survey is taking a consistent approach with data
Lucien Nana Yobo	Texas A&M University	Participant	Learn about the various geochemical database
Tengfei Zhou	China University of Petroleum (East China)	Participant	Big data and Geochemical data

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