
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPOnline

Title: Our Outdoors App: social connectedness, personal learning, community impact, and health benefits

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Project abstract:

Research shows that the interplay of institutions, policies, infrastructures, interventions, environments, and communities shapes health and wellbeing. Urban liveability, for example, is increasingly tied to access to high-quality urban green and blue spaces (UGBS) and opportunities for engagement with nature. Many of these spaces remain underutilised yet hold significant potential as preventive infrastructures, particularly for tackling non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and reducing health disparities. As such, increasing public awareness of the benefits of these spaces should contribute to improving public health indicators and help address health inequalities. Therefore, understanding the factors that hinder citizens' use of these UGBS is critical for defining a strategy to promote greater use of urban green and blue spaces.

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Our Outdoors App: social connectedness, personal learning, community impact, and health benefits

Assessment of existing data

Provide an explanation of the existing data sources that will be used by the research project, with references

The Our Outdoors App <https://www.spotteron.com/ouroutdoors/> has been used as an evaluation tool by communities to collect the data they need most. In Edinburgh, one residents' group is already using Our Outdoors to gather evidence to support their case in preserving a local green space. The data generated by Our outdoors is held on a open source platform, allowing access by policy makers, town planners and the general public. Complementing the data generated by Our Outdoors, data from a household survey conducted in Edinburgh between March and April 2025, involving 600 households, will be used to explore barriers and facilitators to park use. The data is property of the UoE, and is hosted on Spotteron, being available under open access.

Provide an analysis of the gaps identified between the currently available and required data for the research

User testing revealed that an app's attractiveness is highly contingent on how well it responds to users' evolving requirements. Initial appeal is not sufficient; if user needs are unmet or overlooked, engagement quickly diminishes. This highlights the importance of designing for sustained relevance, where adaptability and responsiveness are built into the system. By addressing user requirements as they emerge in practice, the project aims to maintain attractiveness and foster long-term usability, inclusivity, and impact. This is precisely why we propose conducting further qualitative studies: to gain deeper insights into how users interpret and experience the app's usability. Such insights will inform a redesign process that is grounded in users' lived practices and expectations, ensuring the app remains engaging, meaningful, and effective over time.

Information on new data

Provide information on the data that will be produced or accessed by the research project

By addressing user requirements as they emerge in practice, the project aims to maintain attractiveness and foster long-term usability, inclusivity, and impact. To achieve this, we propose generating new data through a participatory, co-design process, enabling iterative engagement with users. By building on users' ideas and interpretations of the app's usability, this approach ensures the redesign is grounded in lived experience, creating a system that remains engaging, meaningful, and responsive over time.

Quality assurance of data

Describe the procedures for quality assurance that will be carried out on the data collected at the time of data collection, data entry, digitisation and data checking.

Triangulating these findings with data already produced by Our Outdoors will not only strengthen robustness but also enhance the depth and quality of the evidence. This approach ensures the app redesign is firmly grounded in users' lived experiences, supporting long-term usability, inclusivity, and meaningful engagement.

Backup and security of data

Describe the data security and backup procedures you will adopt to ensure the data and metadata are securely stored during the lifetime of the project.

Regular Backups

- - Automated daily backups to secure cloud storage (e.g., institutional servers or GDPR-compliant cloud services).
 - Weekly full backups are stored in an offline/physical location for disaster recovery.

Management and curation of data

Outline your plans for preparing, organising and documenting data.

1. Data Classification

- Categorise all data by sensitivity (e.g., personal, pseudonymized, aggregated).
- Apply stricter controls for identifiable or sensitive data.
- Retain data only as long as necessary for project objectives.
- Secure deletion of sensitive data after the retention period

Difficulties in data sharing and measures to overcome these

Identify any potential obstacles to sharing your data, explain which and the possible measures you can apply to overcome these.

Qualitative data is rich, contextual, and interpretive, capturing participants' experiences, meanings, and social interactions through text, visuals, or audio. Its depth and subjectivity, while valuable, can make sharing challenging: data often contains sensitive or identifiable information, nuanced interpretations, or context-dependent insights that risk misrepresentation if removed from their original setting.

Consent, anonymisation and strategies to enable further re-use of data

Make explicit mention of the planned procedures to handle consent for data sharing for data obtained from human participants, and/or how to anonymise data, to make sure that data can be made available and accessible for future scientific research.

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Copyright and intellectual property ownership

State who will own the copyright and IPR of any new data that you will generate.

The University of Edinburgh will own the copyright and IPR of the new data

Responsibilities

Outline responsibilities for data management within research teams at all partner institutions

The Principal Investigator will be responsible for overseeing data management across all research teams at partner institutions. This includes ensuring consistent procedures for data collection, storage, security, and sharing, as well as adherence to ethical guidelines and institutional policies, thereby maintaining the integrity, quality, and confidentiality of all project data.

Preparation of data for sharing and archiving

Are the plans for preparing and documenting data for sharing and archiving with the UK Data Service appropriate?

To prepare data for archiving and sharing, all project datasets will be carefully organised and reviewed for completeness and accuracy. Personally identifiable information will be anonymised or pseudonymized, and comprehensive metadata will document context, methodology, and coding schemes. Files will be converted into widely accessible, stable formats, and quality checks will ensure integrity and readability. Data sharing will comply with participant consent and ethical approvals, with access levels determined based on the sensitivity of the data. By following these procedures, the project ensures that datasets are robust, interpretable, and ethically managed for future use.

Is there evidence that data will be well documented during research to provide highquality contextual information and/or structured metadata for secondary users?

Yes, there is evidence that the data will be well-documented to provide high-quality contextual information and structured metadata for secondary users. As this is a generative research process, previously collected data will inform subsequent methodology, shaping the material and guiding ongoing data collection. To support this iterative approach, all datasets will be carefully annotated with detailed metadata that describes the context, methods, and coding procedures. Field notes, codebooks, and documentation of decisions made during data collection will accompany the datasets, ensuring that secondary users can accurately interpret and reuse the data while maintaining ethical and analytical integrity.