

Data Management, Your Grant, and MorphoBank

MORPHOBANK

HOMOLOGY OF PHENOTYPES OVER THE WEB &
A database of peer-reviewed morphological matrices

If your grant involves the generation of morphological data matrices and/or 2D or 3D images that you would like to deposit at MorphoBank as part of your publication, then MorphoBank can work with you to add text and budget to your grant proposal. Such contributions from the community help to sustain MorphoBank as an important scientific resource.

Data Management Plan

MorphoBank's mission is to be the long term repository for morphological data matrices and associated 2D or 3D images that are described in peer-reviewed publications. While we have funding from NSF to replatform Morphobank's aging software by 2025 and our membership community is growing, MorphoBank can always benefit from research project-based grant support. We are committed to MorphoBank being an open access resource that is accessible to all, regardless of membership status. If you plan to use MorphoBank as a repository for grant funded projects and your institution cannot become a member (for any reason), we ask that you include a line item in your grant to support MorphoBank's work.

You may also wish to cite [Cranston et al. 2014 Best Practices for Data Sharing in Phylogenetic Research. PLoS Currents](#). This paper provides important language on 'best practices' for morphological phylogenetics and emphasizes the importance of planning for data management at the start, not the end, of a research project.

We include some sample text below that can be modified as needed and used in your Data Management Plan.

MorphoBank (www.morphobank.org) is an open access database and curation platform that makes morphological data matrices that are linked to peer-reviewed publications easily discoverable and freely available for reuse. MorphoBank mints DOIs as the persistent digital identifiers at both the Project and Matrix level. DOIs are issued at the time of project publication and the projects themselves link back to the originating publication.

MorphoBank's data and media are backed up on a weekly basis.

MorphoBank strongly encourages grant funded users at institutions that are not currently supporting MorphoBank through membership fees to include funding in their grant proposals to help ensure safe, secure, and free distribution of these data for future researchers. Funds requested in this proposal were calculated in collaboration with MorphoBank staff.

Requests for New Feature Development

If you have an idea for a new feature that could benefit the MorphoBank community, we are excited to discuss it with you. If the feature is broadly useful and fits MorphoBank's architecture, we can document the specifications, consult with our tech team and estimate the programming hours that development, testing, and release would involve. We may also consult our Scientific Advisory Board to evaluate the general usefulness of the tool to the community. The cost estimate can be included in your grant as a direct expense to be used to fund that development effort. Please contact us at curator@morphobank.org so that we can work together on making your idea a reality.

Curation/ Budgeting for Large Data Sets

There is no charge for researchers to create, modify, and store their morphological data matrices or media in MorphoBank. However, in cases where there are large amounts of image data (hundreds or thousands of media taking many GB of space) that need to be bulk uploaded with associated metadata, we request that you include a budget for this data wrangling and curation work. This may be entered as a fee for the MorphoBank data repository in your Budget Justification. Please contact us for an estimate.

