



## Membership Policy

The scientific, educational, and charitable **mission** of Dryad is to provide the infrastructure for, and promote the re-use of, data underlying the scholarly literature.

The **vision** of Dryad is to promote a world where research data is openly available, integrated with the scholarly literature, and routinely re-used to create knowledge.

As a nonprofit membership organization, Dryad relies on input from the broad community of stakeholders in research, education and scholarly communication for governance and support in making irreplaceable data resources available for present and future generations of researchers and educators.

### Governance

Dryad is governed by a twelve-member Board of Directors, elected by its Members at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Membership is open to organizations that support and advance the mission of Dryad. This includes the full spectrum of stakeholder organizations, such as journals, learned societies, publishers, research institutions, libraries, and funding bodies.

Since both journals and their publishers are eligible to join Dryad, a journal can have a direct voice in Dryad's affairs by becoming a voting member, or a journal can be associated with Dryad through its publisher. Dryad does not offer memberships to individuals.

### Becoming a member

Dryad members have a say in the organization by participating in annual meetings, electing the Board of Directors, and providing input on strategic directions and other matters of importance. Journals that are members of Dryad or are produced by members may receive a discount on deposit fees.

Organizations interested in joining Dryad may complete the [online membership application](#) or request an application by contacting [director@datadryad.org](mailto:director@datadryad.org). Applications will be reviewed by the Dryad Board of Directors.

### What are the costs of membership?

Membership in Dryad requires an annual membership fee. Membership runs January through December. There are three categories of membership:

Category	Designed for	Annual dues
<b>Sustainer</b>	Publishers or other organizations with an annual gross income of \$10 million or more. All journals published by the member are eligible for discounted pricing plans.	\$5000
<b>Supporter</b>	Smaller publishers, scholarly societies and other organizations with an annual gross income of less than \$10 million. All journals published by the member are eligible for discounted pricing plans.	\$1000
<b>Advocate</b>	Libraries, nonprofits or other organizations of any income level that wish to support open data at Dryad and vote in Dryad elections.	\$500

### Member discounts for associated journals

Dryad charges modest fees for depositing data. These fees are the main source of financial sustainability for Dryad, which operates on a not-for-profit basis. Fees may be paid by journals or by authors using a variety of flexible [payment plans](#).

Journals which are Sustainer or Supporter members of Dryad or are produced by publishers which are Sustainer or Supporter members receive a discount on deposit fees. These membership levels are scaled based on the annual budget of the candidate member organization. If an organization would like to join Dryad but does not want to save on data publication charges, the Advocate level may be chosen.

### Annual membership meeting

An annual meeting of Dryad members is held every May, at which members learn about the progress of Dryad, discuss its future direction, vote on policy matters and the budget, and elect one-third of the members of Dryad Board of Directors.

The meeting also provides a forum for sharing knowledge and coordinating action

around data policies.

Member organizations need to appoint a representative to Dryad, who is invited to attend the Annual Meeting, nominate candidates for the Board of Directors and cast one vote in the Board elections.

In the event that a representative (or a replacement chosen by the member) cannot attend the annual meeting, that member may participate electronically in the election of board members and any votes on changes to the bylaws.

### **Election of the Board of Directors**

Directors are elected each calendar year by the members at the annual meeting. Each term is three years, and Directors may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. Each member has one vote in the election of the Board of Directors, and the election is determined by a simple majority. Directors serve as individuals rather than representatives of any organization.

The Board of Directors is expected to be a diverse group of people, with a mix of backgrounds and skills representing the various stakeholders. Nominations for people to serve on the Board of Directors are welcomed from all members. These can be forwarded to the Chair of the Board of Directors or the chair of the Governance Committee by emailing [director@datadryad.org](mailto:director@datadryad.org).

Appendix: [Dryad Bylaws](#)