

Texas A&M University - Research Data Collaboration & Sharing Tools

This guide provides Texas A&M University researchers with a quick reference to collaborative tools for managing, sharing, and publishing research data. It highlights both internal collaboration tools for lab and project team use, and public/open science tools for broader data dissemination, with notes on TAMU- specific access and support.

Public / Open Science Data Sharing Tools

Tool / Platform	Description	Eligible Users	Key Features	Best Use Case	Access Model	TAMU Access
Open Science Framework (OSF)	Free, open-source project management and collaboration platform supporting open science practices.	Researchers, labs, institutions, general public.	Project organization, preprints, integrations (GitHub, Dropbox, Google Drive), public/private sharing.	Sharing projects, preprints, and workflows openly or with collaborators.	Free individual and institutional use.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Available for anyone; TAMU researchers can use freely (no special license required).
Zenodo	Open-access repository hosted by CERN, integrated with GitHub.	Anyone (researchers, labs, institutions).	Free data storage, DOI minting, GitHub integration, FAIR data support.	Publishing code and small datasets with a DOI.	Free, open access.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Available for anyone; not institution-specific.
Figshare	Repository for publishing and sharing datasets, figures, and materials.	Individual researchers, institutions, publishers.	DOI assignment, open access, funder compliance, embargos, institutional accounts.	Publishing datasets and supplementary materials alongside articles.	Free individual accounts; institutional plans available.	<input type="checkbox"/> TAMU does not have an institutional Figshare license (researchers may use free/publisher-hosted options).
Dryad	Curated data repository focused on datasets linked to publications.	Researchers submitting data with published work.	Data curation, DOI minting, funder/publisher compliance, open access.	Publishing datasets required by journals/funders.	Fee-based (often waived if journal/publisher has agreement).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Available for TAMU researchers individually; not institutionally sponsored.
Texas Data Repository (TDR)	Statewide repository powered by Dataverse, hosted by Texas Digital Library, supporting Texas institutions.	Faculty, staff, and students at participating Texas Digital Library institutions (includes TAMU).	DOI assignment, metadata standards, FAIR data support, long-term preservation.	Publishing and preserving research data; meeting funder/publication mandates.	Institutional membership in Texas Digital Library.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAMU researchers have full access via TAMU’s TDL membership.
GitHub (Public Repos)	Public code and workflow sharing.	Anyone.	Open-source collaboration, version control, issue tracking, Zenodo integration for DOI assignment.	Sharing codebases, reproducible workflows, and software openly.	Free individual accounts; enterprise/institutional for private repos.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Available for anyone; TAMU does not maintain an institutional GitHub license.

Internal Lab Collaboration Tools

Tool / Platform	Description	Eligible Users	Key Features	Best Use Case	Access Model	TAMU Access
Electronic Lab Notebooks (ELNs) (e.g., LabArchives , Benchling , RSpace)	Digital replacement for paper lab notebooks, designed for documenting and sharing experiments/data.	Labs, researchers, students.	Data capture, compliance (FDA 21 CFR Part 11, GLP), collaboration tools, permissions, instrument/software integration.	Day-to-day experiment tracking, secure lab documentation.	LabArchives – usually institutional license; Benchling – free individual accounts (limited) + institutional; RSpace – free Community Edition + institutional licenses.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAMU provides LabArchives (licensed through TAMU Libraries / Division of Research).
Slack / Microsoft Teams	Communication and collaboration platforms for group coordination.	Lab groups, research teams, institutions.	Project channels, messaging, video calls, file sharing, integrations with GitHub/OSF.	Team communication and coordination.	Slack – free & paid team plans; Teams – generally through institutional/enterprise license.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Teams included in TAMU Microsoft 365 license.
Google Drive / OneDrive / Dropbox	Cloud storage and file-sharing for collaborative document/data management.	Individuals, labs, institutions.	File sharing, version history, collaborative editing, integration with productivity tools.	Drafting manuscripts, small dataset sharing, collaborative editing.	Free individual accounts; enterprise/institutional for more storage/security.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OneDrive provided via TAMU Microsoft 365 (1 TB storage per user). Google Drive/Dropbox are available individually but not TAMU-supported.
GitHub / GitLab (Private Repos)	Code and workflow management with controlled sharing.	Anyone (free or institutional licenses).	Version control, collaborative coding, private repositories, issue tracking, Jupyter Notebook integration.	Sharing and managing scripts, code, pipelines with lab members.	GitHub – free individual accounts + enterprise; GitLab – free cloud accounts or self-hosted.	<input type="checkbox"/> No TAMU enterprise GitHub license (researchers use individual GitHub accounts). GitLab available individually or via self-hosting.