THE SAFEGUARDS TOOLKIT

safeGUARDS

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WHAT ARE THE SAFEGUARDS

safeGUARDS is a group of principles that encompass existing framework and newly developed ideas that to act as an overarching governance framework for the research community.
The toolkit has been proposed to create a shared space where resources and frameworks guiding and supporting transparency and data stewardship can be found and shared in the research community.

OBJECTIVES

The safeGUARDS toolkit aims to :

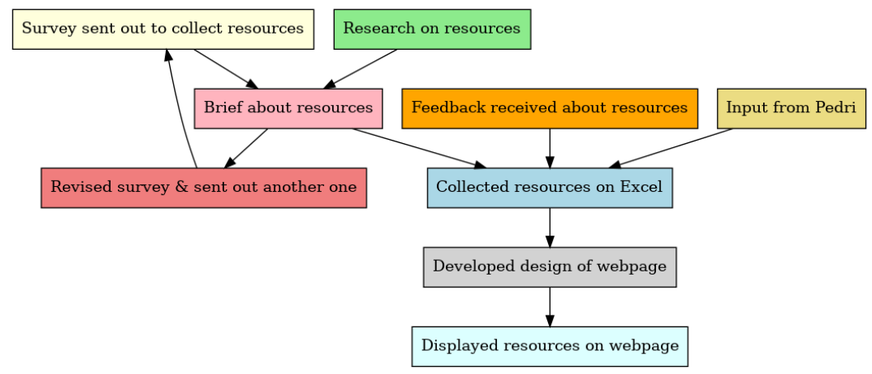
- Create a centralised hub of existing resources making it easier for data stewards, professionals and stakeholders to safeguard data.
- Highlighting any gaps that we have in policies, resources and guidance on data stewardship
- Promote transparency and give the public insight into how their data may be handled

CREATING THE TOOLKIT

The first step in creating the toolkit was the collection of resources through a series of surveys. It was observed that the initial survey was too restrictive, as binary questions limited the number of responses obtained.

A revised, more open-ended survey was then developed, welcoming input from a wider audience. Feedback about resources was also received from team members and co-workers, which helped to expand and refine the collection. Additional resources were identified alongside the surveys and added to strengthen the toolkit.

Once resources had been gathered, the webpages were designed. Each principle was placed on its own page, making the materials easy to navigate and clearly assigned to the relevant safeguard. All webpages were made accessible through the main portal introducing the safeGUARDS principles.



FEATURES OF THE TOOLKIT

Each webpage consists of a :

- A brief description of the principle and some graphics
- All the resources linked also have brief explanations on what they are and how they can be used in guiding and applying each principle.

CONCLUSION

The Safeguards Toolkit has been developed as a curated collection of existing resources, brought together to provide a single accessible hub for the research community. By centralising materials, barriers to finding relevant guidance have been reduced and consistency in applying safeguards has been encouraged.

The toolkit has been designed as a living resource that will continue to be updated and reviewed, ensuring that it remains current and responsive to changing needs.

REFERENCES

- https://ukhealthdata.org/trust-and-transparency/data-access-and-governance/safeguards/