# Plan Overview

*A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline*

**Title:** Develop a research data management plan for a research paper - To What Extent Do African WTO Member States Possess the Legal, Institutional and Practical Capacity to Effectively Utilise Arbitration under Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding in Response to the Appellate Body Crisis?

**Creator:**Sharon Pickup

**Principal Investigator:** Jean Chiyedza Nyamasvisva, Sharon Pickup

**Data Manager:** Sharon Pickup

**Contributor:** Pamela Dzinduwa, Sioux Vimbainashe Shoko, Ashley Zhou, Sandile Lusinga, Shingi, Lesley Muchena, Marve

**Affiliation:** University of Zimbabwe

**Template:** DCC Template

**Project abstract:**

Since December 2019, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Appellate Body has been operationally paralysed by a world superpower. The paralysis undermines the effectiveness of the WTO dispute settlement system, leaving disputing states without an effective mechanism to resolve the disputes. Article 25 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) provides for arbitration as an alternative means of dispute settlement. However, its effective utilisation raises questions regarding the legal, institutional, technical and financial capacity of African WTO member states.

This study seeks to critically assess the extent to which African WTO Member States possess the capacity to effectively utilise arbitration under Article 25 of the DSU. It will examine the legal requirements governing Article 25 arbitration, the availability of qualified arbitrators with expertise in international trade law, institutional support, government technical expertise, financial resources and practical barriers affecting participation. The research will use a systematic literature review, examining relevant WTO instruments, the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Agreement, legal scholarship, and institutional reports.

The study aims to identify the opportunities and constraints affecting African states' effective utilisation of Article 25 arbitration and propose legal capacity-building measures to strengthen their participation in WTO dispute settlement.

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# Develop a research data management plan for a research paper - To What Extent Do African WTO Member States Possess the Legal, Institutional and Practical Capacity to Effectively Utilise Arbitration under Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding in Response to the Appellate Body Crisis?

## Data Collection

### What data will you collect or create?

published journals in the field
Google and other search engines
google scholar
Jstor
Hein online
deduplication sites
Academic social networking sites eg Academia.edu
connected papers
Qualitative textual data and documentation and scripts will be used to store the data e.g Doc.x, Microsoft Word and PDF. The volume of data may be 100GB to 1TB
WTO online documents pdf and word
WTO interviews audio and visual

### How will the data be collected or created?

Desk based research, comparative research methods and s systematic literature review using PRISMA framework. A search strategy including translating the research topic into searchable key words, identifying synonyms and alternative terms. Phrase searching, nesting and parantheses and truncation.
Doctrinal legal research: Used to examine and interpret Article 25 of the DSU, relevant WTO agreements, arbitration decisions and national legal frameworks.
Comparative legal research: Used to compare the legal, institutional and practical capacities of selected African WTO member states.
Thematic analysis: Used to categorise collected information under legal, institutional and practical
FAIR data principles: Data will be organised to ensure that it is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable, subject to confidentiality and copyright restrictions.

## Documentation and Metadata

### What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

The documentation will include the research question and objectives, methodology, data sources, search strategies, inclusion and exclusion criteria and procedures for data collection, protocol/research register. Meta data will include title. creator. date, subject, description, source and identifiers. This will support the FAIR principles by making the research data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable

## Ethics and Legal Compliance

### How will you manage any ethical issues?

ethical issues will be managed by ensuring academic integrity, accurate attribution of sources, compliance with copyright and IP requirements. All sources will be appropriately acknowledged.

**How will you manage copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?**

Copyright and intellectual property issues will be managed in accordance with applicable copyright legislation, University of Zimbabwe General Academic Regulations for Undergraduate Degrees, 2020, follow the rules on academic integrity, use plagarism detection software

## Storage and Backup

**How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?**

Data will comprise electronic legal documents and academic publications being textual records to ensure data is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR) (Stellenboch University Library 2024). A digital object identifier will be assigned to the document and will be stored in cloud services and a copy will be stored on desk top. The 3-2-1 back up strategy will be adopted to minimise the risk of data loss. Three copies of the research data will be maintained across two different storage media, with one copy stored off site. Cloud back up will be done daily. In the event of accidental deletion or corruption of the data  the most recent back up will be used to restore information.

**How will you manage access and security?**

For this particular research the risks associated with access and security are relatively low as data sets will primarily involve publicly available legal documents, WTO reports, arbitration awards and academic literature. Access will be password controlled with 2 factor autentication, stored on a computer that is password protected and use the safe google cloud storage. The document will be editable only by contributors

## Selection and Preservation

**Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?**

The materials that need to be retained to provide an audit trail of the research process and enable other researchers to understand, verify and build on this research include literature search records, inclusion and exclusion criteria, PRISMA screening, research methodology and research findings. Copyright material will only be shared in accordance with conditions imposed by the right holders. Any material without research value will be deleted and accidental duplicates will be deleted. FAIR principles

**What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?**

To prevent data loss over time, the final dataset will be deposited into the University of Zimbabwe searchable repository. All files will be in an open format,t ensuring the data remains readable. Throughout the active research phase and before final archiving, data will be protected using the **3-2-1 Backup Rule**, maintaining at least 3 copies of the files across 2 different storage media,ia with at least 1 copy stored offsite in secure cloud storage.

## Data Sharing

**How will you share the data?**

Using third party, commercial file-sharing services. This research will use Google Docs

1. Repository & Long-Term Archiving
2. Persistent Identifiers
3. Open File Formats

**Are any restrictions on data sharing required?**

Legal sources such as WTO agreements, case law, and public policy papers will be openly shared. However, restrictions will apply to sensitive data, such as interviews conducted with trade officials, regulators, or corporate executives across Africa, to protect participant confidentiality and prevent the risk of re-identifying anonymised individuals. This research will however only use publicly available data

## Responsibilities and Resources

**Who will be responsible for data management?**

Primary Responsibility shall be assigned to the lead researcher, who shall hold overall responsibility for managing, organising, storing, protecting, and sharing all research data throughout the project lifecycle and beyond.

**What resources will you require to deliver your plan?**

1. Storage Backup Hardware, such as an external hard drive or falsh drive ($65.00)
2. Paid Cloud Storage ($24.00/month)
3. Referencing Software ($0.00 free)
4. Encryption Software ($0.00 free)
5. Internet connectivity ($180/month)
6. Minimal funding for internet connectivity, transport fares to conduct interviews ($900 all inclusive)