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The volume of research, the increasing facilities for producing and analysing data mechanically, and the rising cost of printing have each made it difficult to publish in the normal way the full details of experimental data which are available. Moreover, whilst there may be a large audience for the general methods of a research project and its conclusions, the number of scientists interested in details in any particular case may be quite small. Therefore, in consultation with interested journal editors, the British Library Document Supply Centre has developed a scheme for the storage and dissemination of detailed material which supplements articles published in learned scientific journals.

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