

Appendix A

Table 1 - Summary of Review Criteria Across Repository Certification Frameworks

CRITERIA		CoreTrustSeal	nestorSeal	TRAC	TDR
ORGANIZATIONAL	Mission/Scope	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rights Management	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Legal/Ethical	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sustainability	✓ <i>basic</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓
	Governance/Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Staffing/Expertise	✓ <i>general</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓
	Preservation Policy	—	✓	✓	✓
	Quality Management	—	✓	✓	✓
OBJECT MANAGEMENT	Provenance/Authenticity	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Deposit/Appraisal	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Preservation Plan	✓ <i>basic</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>
	Quality assurance	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Workflows	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Discovery/Identification	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Use/Reuse	✓	✓	✓	✓
INFRASTRUCTURE & SECURITY	Storage/Integrity	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Technical Infrastructure	✓ <i>general</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓
	Security/Risk Management	✓ <i>basic</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓ <i>detailed</i>	✓

Legend:

- ✓ Requirement has its own dedicated section
- Requirement is not present or is incorporated in another section

Notes:

CoreTrustSeal is an international certification standard for research data repositories. It ensures that repositories adhere to trustworthiness, reliability, and sustainability principles. The certification process, according to the Certification criteria 2023-2025, evaluates repositories based on 16 criteria covering various aspects of data stewardship and curation. An [administrative fee](#) of EUR 3,000 is charged for the review of a CoreTrustSeal certification.

The **nestorSeal** is a self-evaluation framework designed for long-term digital archives, based on DIN Standard 31644: *Criteria for Trustworthy Digital Archives* (DIN Media, 2012). It provides a structured and coordinated approach for digital archives to assess and demonstrate their trustworthiness. The certification process incurs a fee of EUR 500.

The **Trustworthy Repositories Audit & Certification (TRAC)** framework is an auditing tool designed to assess an institution's reliability, organizational commitment, and preparedness to manage long-term digital preservation. TRAC was the foundation for the Trusted Digital Repository (TDR) guidelines (RLG & OCLC, 2002). TDR was later formalized as ISO 16363 in 2012. This transition marked its adoption as an international standard for evaluating the trustworthiness of digital repositories.

ISO 16363 is the internationally recognized standard within the digital preservation community. It defines a 'repository' as an organization responsible for digital preservation, encompassing more than just the technical system.

The standard consists of 109 metrics organized into three key areas:

- **Organizational Infrastructure** (25 metrics)
- **Digital Object Management** (60 metrics)
- **Infrastructure and Security Risk Management** (24 metrics)

ISO 16363 is closely aligned with ISO14721, the *Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS)* (CCSDS, 2024), providing a comprehensive framework for evaluating the trustworthiness and sustainability of digital repositories. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) charges EUR 214,77 for the ISO 16363 document, so only the number of metrics for each key area is listed.

Certification Approach: CoreTrustSeal uses self-assessment with peer review; nestorSeal, TRAC/TDR, and ISO 16363 typically require external audits by certified bodies.