



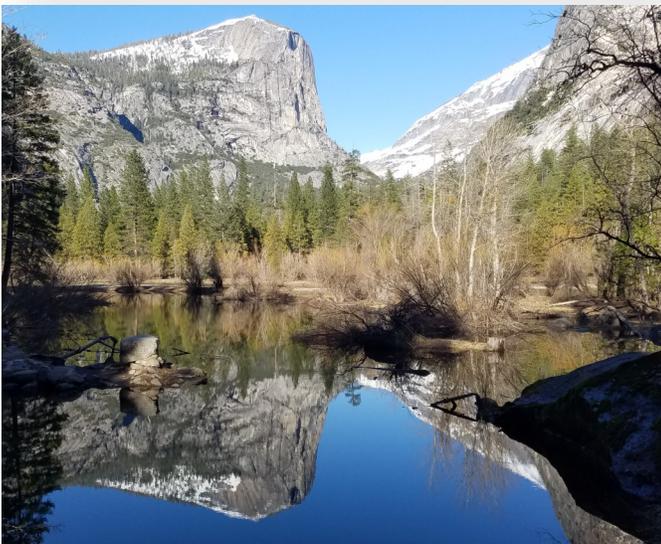
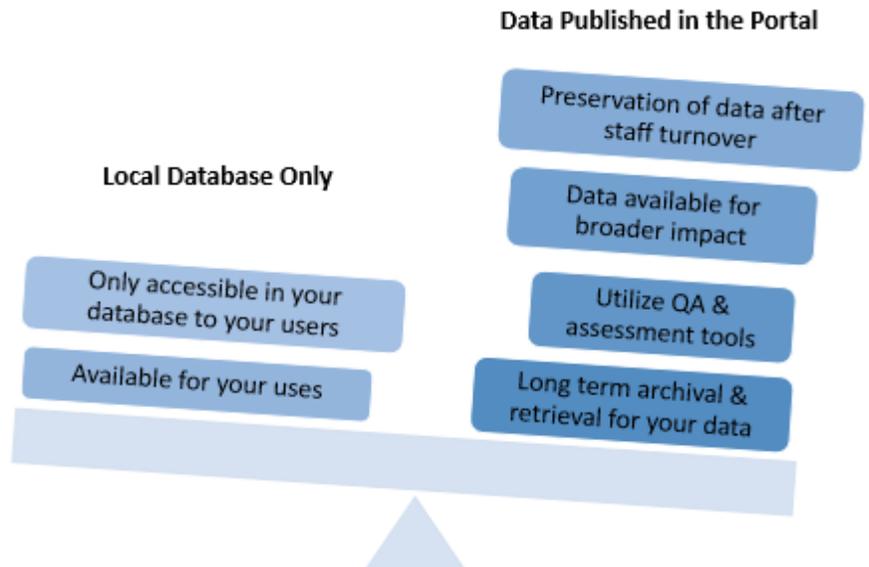
Publishing Your Data to the Water Quality Portal

What is the Portal? The Water Quality Portal is a mechanism for anyone, including the public, to *retrieve* water monitoring data. **The Portal (*database that stores the data*) is a one-stop application for access to water quality data and new data sets published through the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) (*tool used to upload the data*) and available in the Portal.** More than 400 federal, state, tribal and other organizations share over 365 million results through the Portal. The Portal is the largest source for water quality data in the U.S. It enhances data discovery to inform water quality decision making at local, state, regional and national scales.

What are the benefits to publishing to the Portal?

The Portal increases the value, visibility and longevity of data through reuse and storage in a national data archive that continues to grow. It joins data sets across organizations into a common format thus reducing user effort in searching for and compiling data for analysis.

For more information on The Portal, please visit: www.waterqualitydata.us; email WQX@epa.gov or



What is WQX? WQX is a tool partners can use to tell the **Who, What, When, Where, Why** and **How** of water quality. Data partners do not need to reformat their data before submitting but rather they simply associate their current data fields to the WQX fields when publishing through WQX. This provides a common structure for water quality data. From there, the data sets are published into The Portal for broader usage.

I have data I would like to share. How do I get started with becoming a Portal partner?

1 Organize and standardize your data

Choose how you want your data to be organized. You can use Microsoft Excel or other databases. To standardize, you must have minimal metadata for WQX. WQX activities (samples) require organization ID, Project ID and name fields. They must contain units, detection limits and an analytical method (from a drop-down list) to support the result value. The station information must contain latitude and longitude with an identified locational method source.

2 Decide how you want to publish your data

There are two options for you to share your data using WQX. You can choose a standard web-based app (WQX Web) that uses Microsoft Excel spreadsheets or you can choose to create a custom submission application using WQX XML schema through Exchange Network Nodes or Node Clients. The best approach for your organization depends on in-house technical expertise, data volume and resources. The WQX Web app requires less technical expertise and manual steps to upload. Custom WQX XML submission applications can be more efficient for organizations with larger databases and a need for automated submissions.

3 Get an account and start testing

Get an account and start testing WQX Web by getting an account following these instructions: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/wqx-web-account-registration>.



For more information on metadata: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx> > upload data.

For more information on WQX: www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx.

For help using the Portal: www.waterqualitydata.us/portal_userguide/.

For more information, visit: cdx.epa.gov or www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx.