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## **The importance of strategic planning for preservation of geographical data**

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Each country has an important heritage in the form of geographical data. This does not only involve conventional maps or digital map data, but also, for example, aerial photographs, satellite data, surveying and other research data. Certain categories of geographical data are widely well kept, such as conventional maps in libraries and archives. However, other specialized categories are not always handled as comprehensively and systematically. As legal provisions on archives and preservation are often focused on printed work and conventional documents, sometimes there is a lack of consideration for the varied forms, sizes, types and origins of geographical data. There is thus a tendency to leave out geographical data, other than conventional maps, since the institutional organization and professional knowledge in that field prevent adequate preservation. In countries where this is the case, such as in Iceland, it is necessary to put forward a clear public policy on the preservation of geographical data that applies on the national scale, independent of data types and institutes.