

# Adding Custom Demographic Metadata to Subjects



This capability is restricted to Project Owners.

XNAT's core data types are built to be extensible to reflect the shape and organization of your study data. The `xnat:subjectData` data type does not have many demographic fields available in it by default, but is easily extendable in your project. Here's how to do it.

## Adding Data Fields to the Subject Data Type

1. Go to your project home page, and click on **Manage Custom Variables**.
2. Select **Subjects** as your data type to modify, then click **Add a custom variable set**.



PROJECT: TestProject > Protocols

### Project Protocol Management

The project protocol management page allows you to specify what variables are used by a given project protocol. In addition to the default variables, users can specify an unlimited number of additional variables. These 'custom' variables are grouped together in sets, and can be re-used by other projects, allowing for inter-project standardization independent of the specified schema-model. (The default setting of 'project-specific' prevents the variables from being shared with other projects.)

**Instructions:** Select the protocol you would like to modify. First, check the existing variable groups to see if the variable you desire already exists. If so, add the relevant groups by checking their boxes and clicking **Save**. If the desired variables are not already there, create a new variable set using the link below to include the new variable.

Add variable(s) to:

Subjects

[Add a custom variable set](#)

Done

3. Specify your data details. For each data field you add, you should specify why type of data you expect, and whether to restrict users to entering enumerated values.

**Custom Variable Set**

Name:   Project Specific?

Description:

**Custom Variables**  
Please list the variables to be included in this set. (Variable names should be a one word description.)

Name	Type	Required	Possible Values:
<input type="text" value="hairColor"/>	string	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="brown"/> <input type="text" value="black"/> <input type="text" value="ginger"/> <input type="text" value="blond"/> <input type="text" value="gray/white"/> <input type="text" value="other"/> <input type="button" value="+"/>
<input type="text" value="bald"/>	boolean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Possible Values: <input type="button" value="+"/>
<input type="text" value="hairLength"/>	integer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Possible Values: <input type="button" value="+"/>
<input type="text" value="hairStyle"/>	string	<input type="checkbox"/>	Possible Values: <input type="button" value="+"/>



If you want these custom data fields to be widely available in your XNAT, leave the "Project Specific" checkbox unchecked.

4. Click **Save** to save your changes. The page will refresh, and your new data type additions will be selected.

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Add variable(s) to:

Subjects

Select from available variables.

Hair Details: Coiffure comparisons

EDIT

[Add a custom variable set](#)

Done

5. Click **Done** to apply your changes to your project.


## Viewing and Editing Custom Subject Fields

Once you have applied a custom variable set to your Subject Data data type, the category of data will be immediately noted on your subject report pages and the default Subject Edit form. To add values, click on the **Edit** command in the Actions menu.

## Edit an existing subject

Accession Number: XNAT\_S00007

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Primary Project: UXE London Project  
Subject's ID within this project: Subj\_004   
Subject's research group within this project:

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### Demographics

YOB/DOB/Age Please Select One

Date Of Birth  
 Year Of Birth   
 Age

Gender

Handedness

Education

Race

Ethnicity

Height (inches)

Weight (lbs)

Recruitment Source

### Coiffure comparisons

hairColor

bald  No value  True  False

hairLength

hairStyle

