

9-1-2016

Research Data Management, Part One: Self-Help

Jane Kinkus Yacilla
janeyat@purdue.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/lib_fsdocs



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Yacilla, Jane Kinkus, "Research Data Management, Part One: Self-Help" (2016). *Libraries Faculty and Staff Scholarship and Research*. Paper 144.
http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/lib_fsdocs/144

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

Internet Resources: Research Data Management, Part One: Self Help

Submitted by Jane Kinkus Yacilla, Health & Life Sciences Information Specialist, Purdue University Libraries

The concept of open science emphasizes the sharing of research information--not only of the peer-reviewed journal article, but also of the raw data that was collected and interpreted to write said journal article. Part of the rationale for the reuse of research data is that further scientific discovery may happen more quickly as additional minds process and reprocess the data, perhaps testing hypotheses not thought of by the original researchers. If the original data were difficult to produce, grant dollars can be seen as going even further if secondary researchers can wrest more knowledge from the data. Funding agencies like the NIH and NSF have set forth requirements for the maintenance and sharing of data generated by their funded projects, so researchers have developed a new information need—they need to save and share the data and the information they themselves are generating. Enter librarians: researchers' information needs are no longer limited only to the information they want to take in but now extend to the data and information they are producing and pushing out. The use of online repositories, many of which were developed by libraries to facilitate saving and sharing of document-based information, such as journal article final drafts that have been submitted for publication, has evolved into a way for researchers to save, maintain, and share their data.

Below are a few sites that librarians can use to learn more about current data needs, issues, and problems researchers must address. Part 2 (October *MLA News*) will address data sharing and reuse.

[Data Management for Clinical Research MOOC](#)

This self-paced MOOC was created by clinical researchers and is geared toward anyone in a research group who might create, organize, or handle data in any way. It offers a clear overview of data management issues and practices through a series of videos, and it places those topics within the context of conducting clinical research—this could provide very useful for health sciences librarians who have not been directly involved in this process. This tutorial includes some assignments and other assessments. The authors suggest that two to four hours per week for five weeks should be sufficient for successful completion.

[MANTRA Research Data Management Training](#)

MANTRA is a free, self-paced, non-assessed online tutorial targeting anyone who needs to manage digital data as part of a research project, including students, career researchers, and academics. The modules are slide decks with embedded videos that cover data management plans, organizing data, selecting file formats, security issues, and more. The site also includes a “Do-It-Yourself Research Data Management Training Kit for Librarians” which places a librarian-oriented spin on working through the MANTRA materials, with the addition of some ungraded exercises and questions to guide reflection or discussion.

[Data Curation Profiles Toolkit](#)

A data curation profile (DCP) is defined here as “the ‘story’ of a data set or collection, describing its origin and life cycle within a research project.” The DCP Toolkit provides materials for librarians to help researchers determine their needs with regard to the collection, organization, preservation, and sharing of the primary data generated by their work, through a series of

targeted interview questions. The toolkit includes detailed instructions for conducting the interviews, prescribed interview questions, and templates for creating the profile. The DCP site provides several examples of completed data curation profiles that have been developed in diverse disciplines, and invites users to contribute their DCP to this directory.

[DMPTool: Guidance and Resources for Your Data Management Plan](#)

University of California's free DMPTool is a "wizard" that guides users through the process of creating a data management plan while offering in-context help and sample answers; the site is geared toward researchers themselves, rather than librarians. Multiple users can collaborate on a profile as they work through the questions and can submit draft answers to their local administrators for review before the final submission of their grant application. DMPTool supports major funders and is updated as the funders' requirements change. Researchers can determine if their home institution is a DMPTool partner that has customized the tool with institution-specific information. Users can read examples of data management plans that have been made public by their authors, as well as contribute their completed DMP to the archive.