

# Research Data Management

## Data Skills: Planning for Research Success



Countway Library  
*Research Data Services*

# Instructors

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Slides: [bit.ly/rdm2018](https://bit.ly/rdm2018)



**HARVARD**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Data Management  
Working Group



Countway Library of Medicine

*An Alliance of the Harvard Medical School and Boston Medical Library*



Center *for the* History of Medicine

**Harvard Chan Bioinformatics  
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Academic and  
Research Integrity



Department of  
**Systems Biology**



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Research Information Technology Solutions - RITS

**HMS Information Technology**

ICCB-Longwood Screening Facility

**DRSC/TRiP Functional Genomics**

The Neurobiology Imaging Facility

*in the Neurobiology Department of Harvard Medical School*

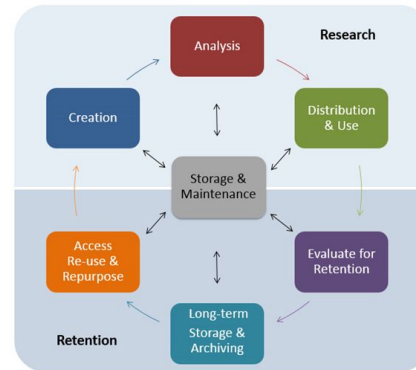
**Hi+|S**

Harvard Program in Therapeutic Science

#### Data Management

Data Management is the process of providing the appropriate labeling, storage, and access for data at all stages of a research project. We recognize that best practices for each of these aspects of data management can and often do change over time, and are different for different stages in the data lifecycle.

**Early and attentive management at each step of the data lifecycle will ensure the discoverability and longevity of your research.**



← June 2018 →

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Receive Data Management Updates

#### FEATURED ONLINE TRAINING:



##### Best Practices for Biomedical Research Data Management



An open online course aimed at a broad audience on recommended practices for managing research data. Take at your own pace, earn badges and interact with students from around the world!

#### FEATURED ONLINE TRAINING:



##### Understanding the Data Lifecycle for Research Success



An online supplement to an in-person workshop, specifically tailored for Post-Docs. If you are affiliated with Harvard, you may receive a course certificate to promote your time taken on this topic.

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Last Updated: 2018-06-08

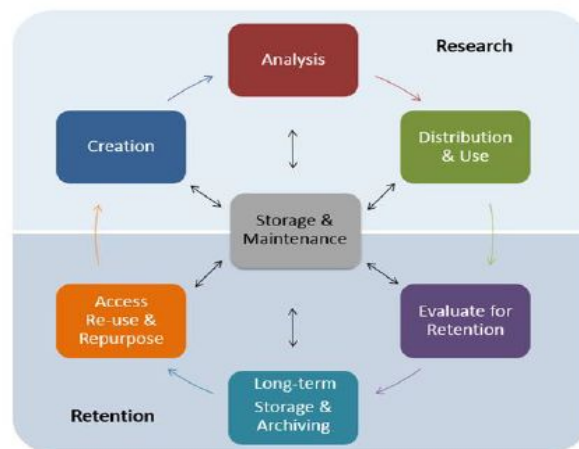
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[Admin Login](#)

# Harvard Biomedical Data Management Website

<https://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu>

## Research Data Management Checklist



This document serves as a reference checklist to keep track of the elements that make up good research data management in the RDM lifecycle.


The RDM lifecycle is not linear and you may find yourself jumping around this lifecycle throughout your project.

Begin building or locate a detailed README.txt overview of your project immediately. Examples of data documentation include lab notebooks and experimental protocols, questionnaires, codebooks, data dictionaries, software syntax and output files, information about your equipment settings and calibration, database schema, methodology reports, and provenance information.

<http://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu/metadata-overview>

Your DMP document should describe final dataset formats, documentation, analytic tools necessary to use the data, data sharing agreements, and how and when the data will be made accessible to others.

We are open to identifying new kinds of data management practices that could benefit the biomedical sciences. If you would like to contribute to the RDM website for your field, please contact the HMS Data Management Working Group through the website link to "Submit your questions and feedback!" <http://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu/>



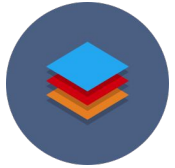
### DATA CREATION: RDM PLANNING

What does your research project look like from start to (anticipated) finish?

<input type="checkbox"/> ID	✓ Determined by the funder and/or institution
<input type="checkbox"/> Funder(s)	✓ Data security policy ✓ Data sharing policy ✓ Data retention policy
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant #	✓ Post award DMPs only
<input type="checkbox"/> Project name	✓ As it appears exactly as on the grant. Append to grant proposal.
<input type="checkbox"/> Project description (background/rationale)	✓ What research question(s) are you addressing? ✓ Summarize the study methods and design including data collection method(s) and purpose of collection. ✓ If creating or collecting data in the field, how will you ensure its safe transfer into your main secured systems?
<input type="checkbox"/> Data description	✓ Content description (brief) - include any value definitions, questionnaires or instruments, or analysis procedures. ✓ Type (imagine data, genomic, Qx, etc.) ✓ Format <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Databases: XML, CSV</li> <li>Geospatial: SHP, DBF, GeoTIFF, NetCDF</li> <li>Moving Images: MOV, MPEG, AVI, MXF</li> <li>Audio: WAVE, AIFF, MP3, MXF</li> <li>Numbers/statistics: ASCII, DTA, POR, SAS, SAV</li> <li>Images: TIFF, JPEG 2000, PDF, PNG, GIF, BMP</li> <li>Text: PDF/A, HTML, ASCII, XML, UTF-8</li> <li>Graphs: JSON, YAML, XML</li> </ul>
	If you need to convert or migrate your data files from one format to another, be aware of the potential risk of the loss or corruption of your data and take appropriate steps to avoid/minimize.
	✓ Briefly justify the use of format – is your chosen format open, non-proprietary and in widespread use? ✓ Estimated volume? ✓ Describe any existing data being used (citations, link and DOI).
<input type="checkbox"/> PI	✓ Name of Principal Investigator(s) or main researcher(s) on the project.
<input type="checkbox"/> PI ORCID ID	✓ ORCID <a href="http://orcid.org/">http://orcid.org/</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative data	✓ Contacts/addresses/email details ✓ Date of first DMP ✓ Date and details for subsequent revision(s) of DMP
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Institution(s)	

# Introduce Yourself!

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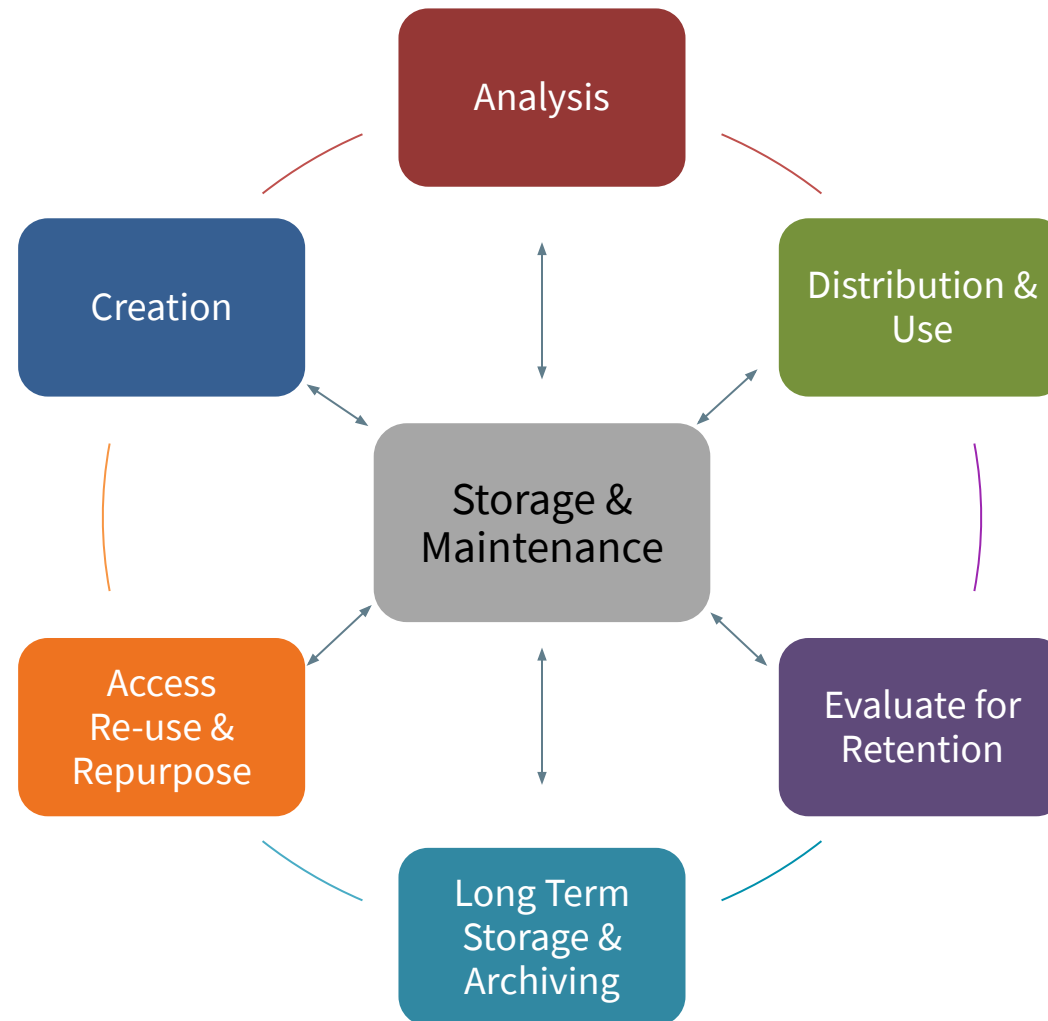
**Name**

**School / Department**

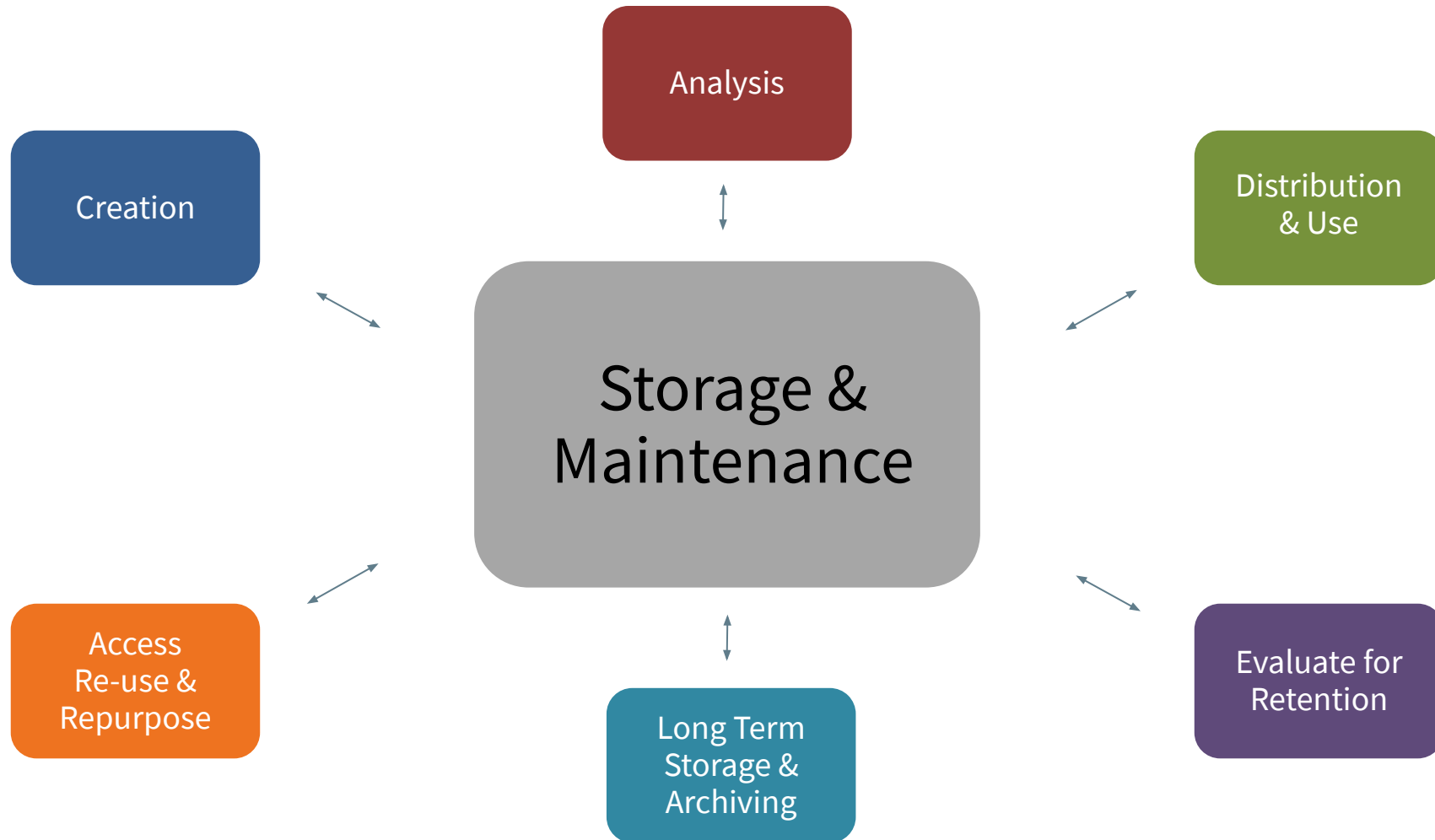
**Most common data format**

*(Text, Excel, SPSS, Google Docs, etc.)*

# Data Lifecycle for Biomedical Data



# Storage affects the whole cycle





# Why Manage Data?

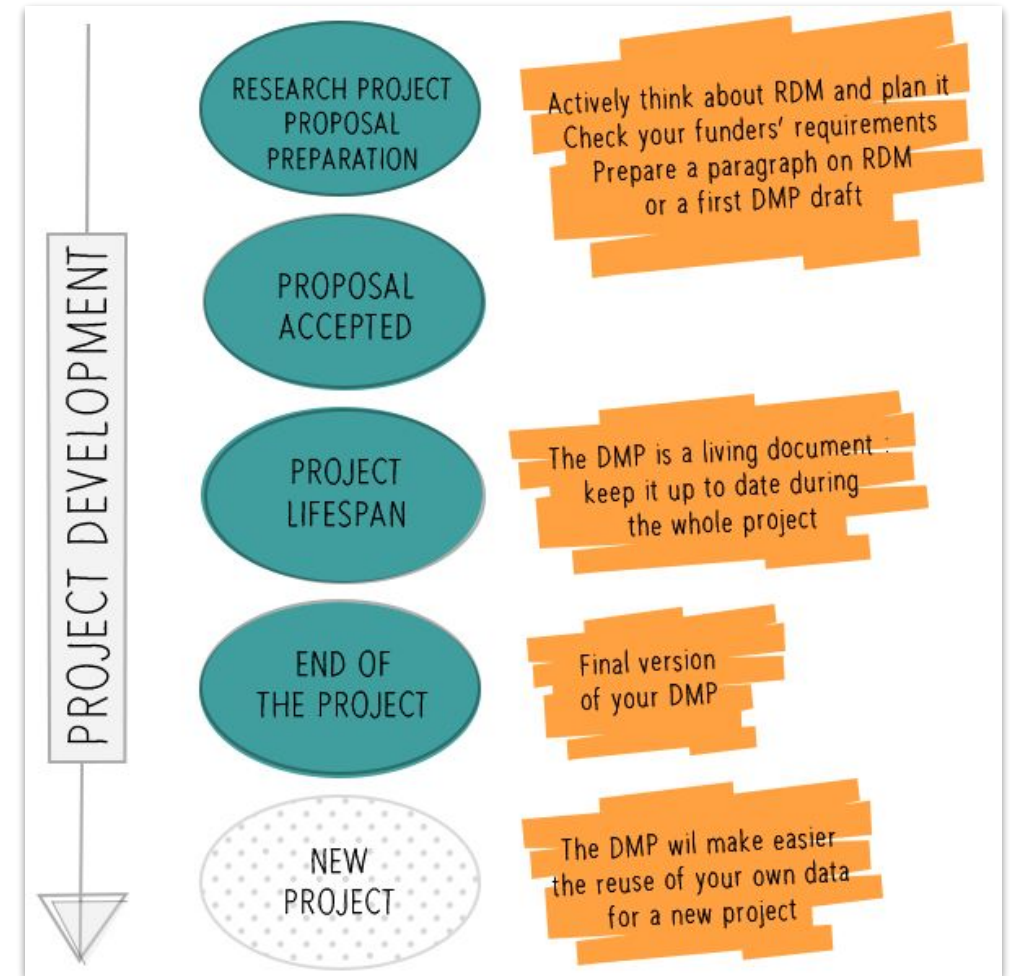
- Easier to analyze organized, documented data
- Avoid accusations of fraud & misconduct
- Don't lose data
- Find data more easily
- Get credit for your data
- Don't drown in irrelevant data



# Data Management Plan

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A data management plan (DMP) is a written document that describes the data you expect to acquire or generate during the course of a research project, how you will manage, describe, analyze, and store those data, and what mechanisms you will use at the end of your project to share and preserve your data.



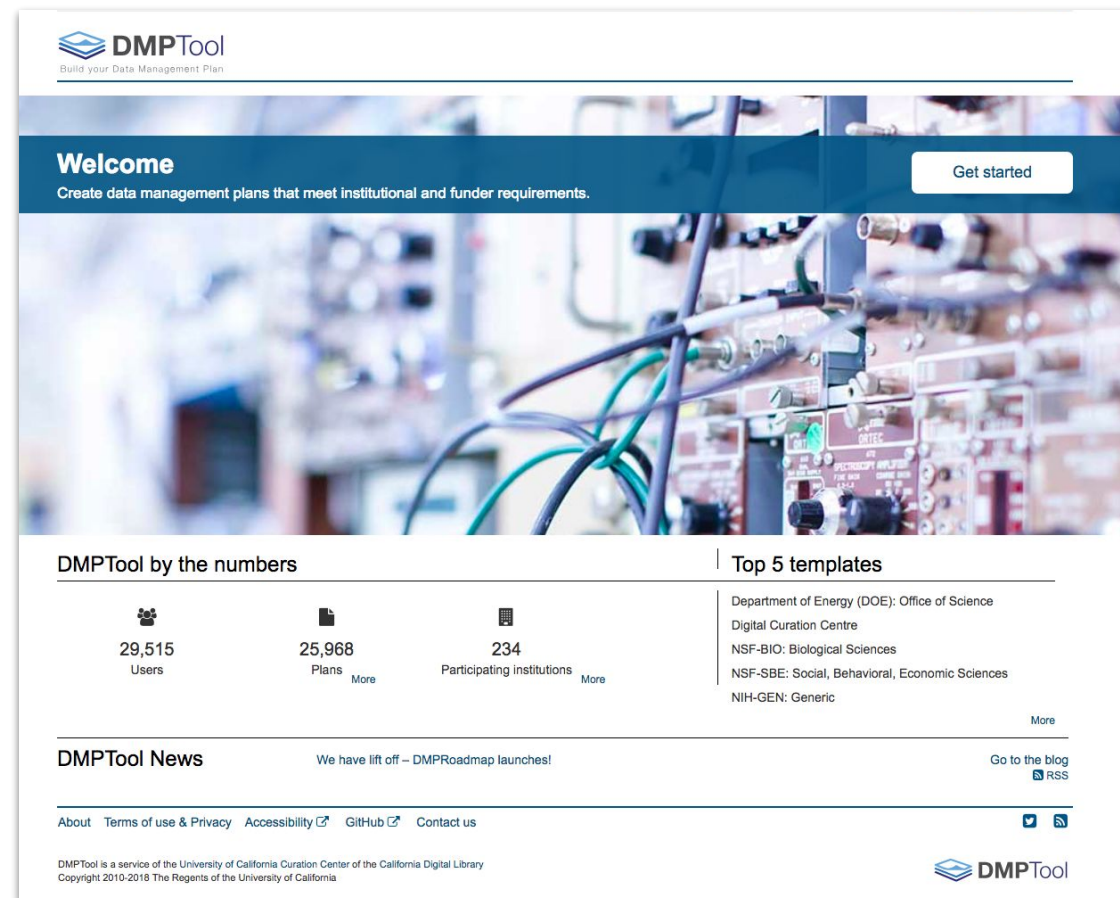
<https://researchdata.epfl.ch/plan-fund/dmp>

# DMPTool




— — — —

The DMPTool is an online tool that includes data management plan templates for many of the large funding agencies that require them.

Harvard is an affiliated partner institution. You can login as a user from your institution with your HarvardKey. By being affiliated Harvard, you will be presented with institution-specific guidance to help you complete your plan.



The screenshot shows the DMPTool website homepage. At the top is the DMPTool logo with the tagline "Build your Data Management Plan". Below the logo is a blue banner with the word "Welcome" and the text "Create data management plans that meet institutional and funder requirements." A "Get started" button is in the top right corner. The main content area features a large image of electronic equipment. Below this, there are two sections: "DMPTool by the numbers" and "Top 5 templates".


DMPTool by the numbers		
 29,515 Users	 25,968 Plans <a href="#">More</a>	 234 Participating institutions <a href="#">More</a>

Top 5 templates
Department of Energy (DOE): Office of Science Digital Curation Centre
NSF-BIO: Biological Sciences
NSF-SBE: Social, Behavioral, Economic Sciences
NIH-GEN: Generic
<a href="#">More</a>

**DMPTool News** We have lift off – DMPRoadmap launches! [Go to the blog](#) [RSS](#)

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DMPTool is a service of the University of California Curation Center of the California Digital Library  
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<https://dmptool.org>

<https://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu/biomedical-data-management-planning-0>

# Data

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**Raw data:** What is being measured or observed?  
This is the data that is being generated during the research project.

**Processed data:** How can the raw data be made useful- able to be manipulated?

**Analyzed data:** What does the data tell us? Is it significant? How so?

**Finalized/Published data:** How does the data support your research question?

## Creation

- ✓ Raw data
- ✓ Working files

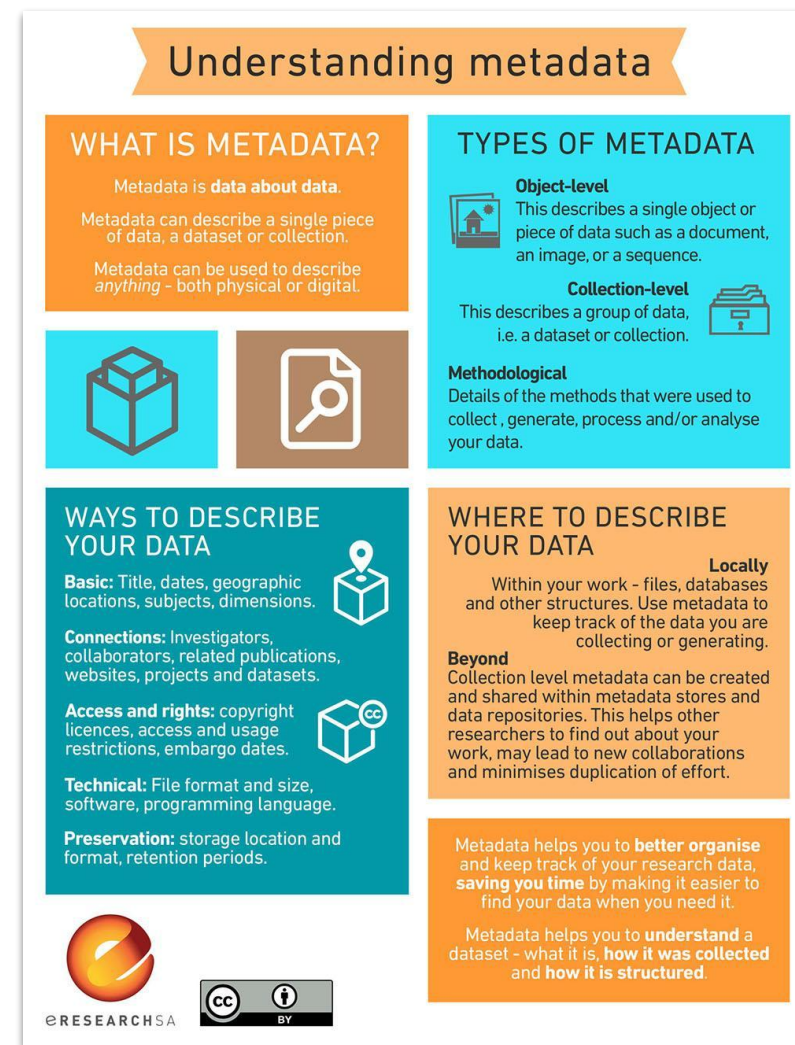
## Analysis

- ✓ Analytical methods
- ✓ Analysis results

# Metadata

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“Good metadata is standardized, consistent and interoperable, and facilitates discovery, preservation and archiving of data.”



<https://www.ersa.edu.au/understanding-metadata>

# On-Your-Own Exercise

# Documentation

For your most common data type, make a list of the most important information to record for each dataset.



# File Conventions

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## Versioning

- For analyzed data use version numbers
- Save files often to a new version
- Label the final version FINAL
- For code, consider GIT or SVN



## Organization

- Any system is better than none
- One project, one folder
- Separate folders for data or project stages
- Date-based folders (pairs well with lab notebook)

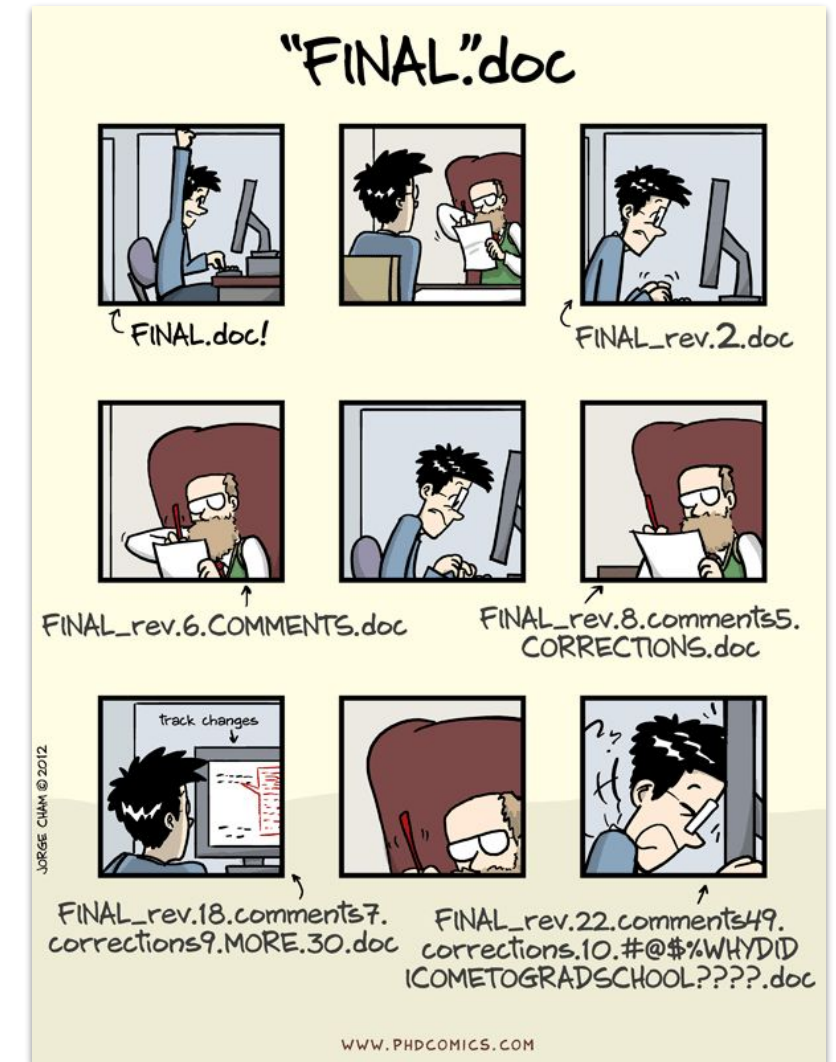


# File Conventions

## Files with naming conventions:

20161104\_ProjectA\_Ex1Test1\_SmithE\_v1.xlsx

20180204-ProjectA-Report-SmithE-v5-FINAL.docx



<http://phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comicid=1531>



# Document Your Conventions

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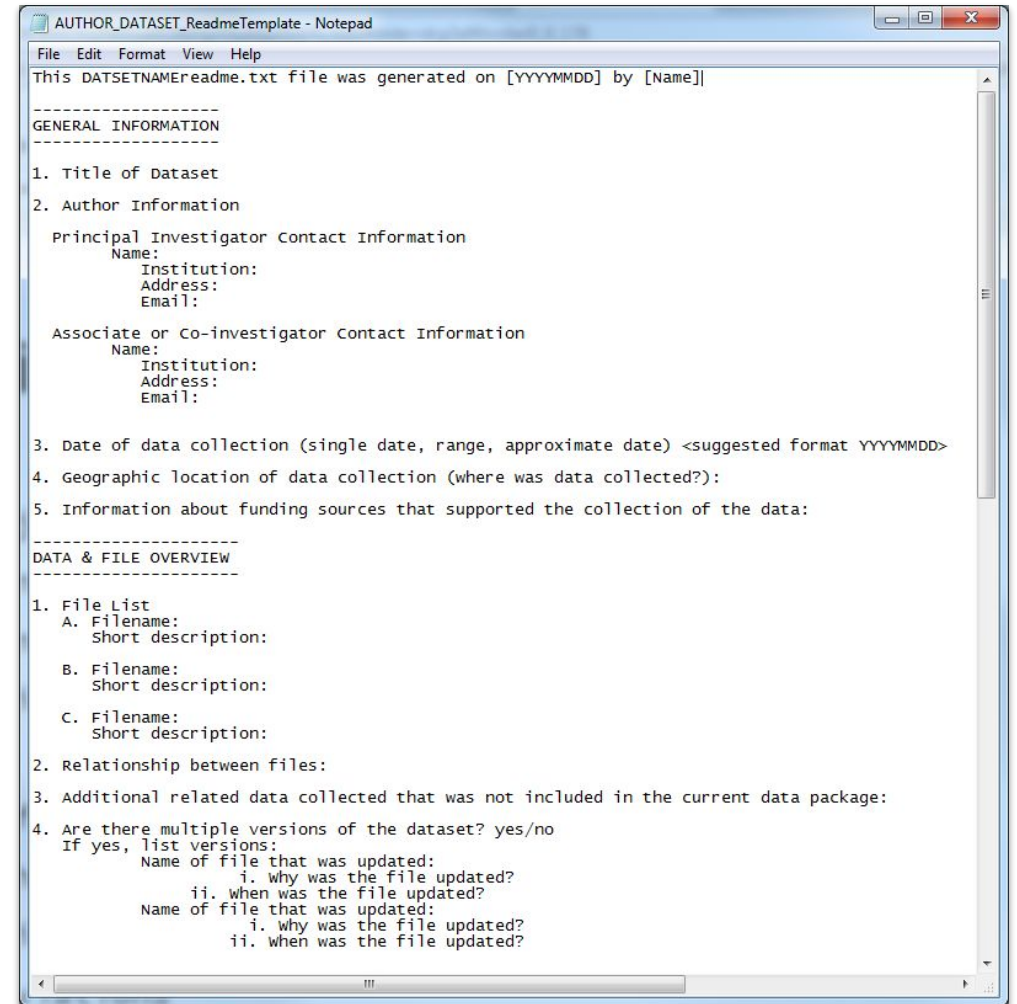
**No point to have a system without documentation!**

- README.txt (use .txt over .doc because it's more durable)
- Front cover of research notebook
- A printout by the computer



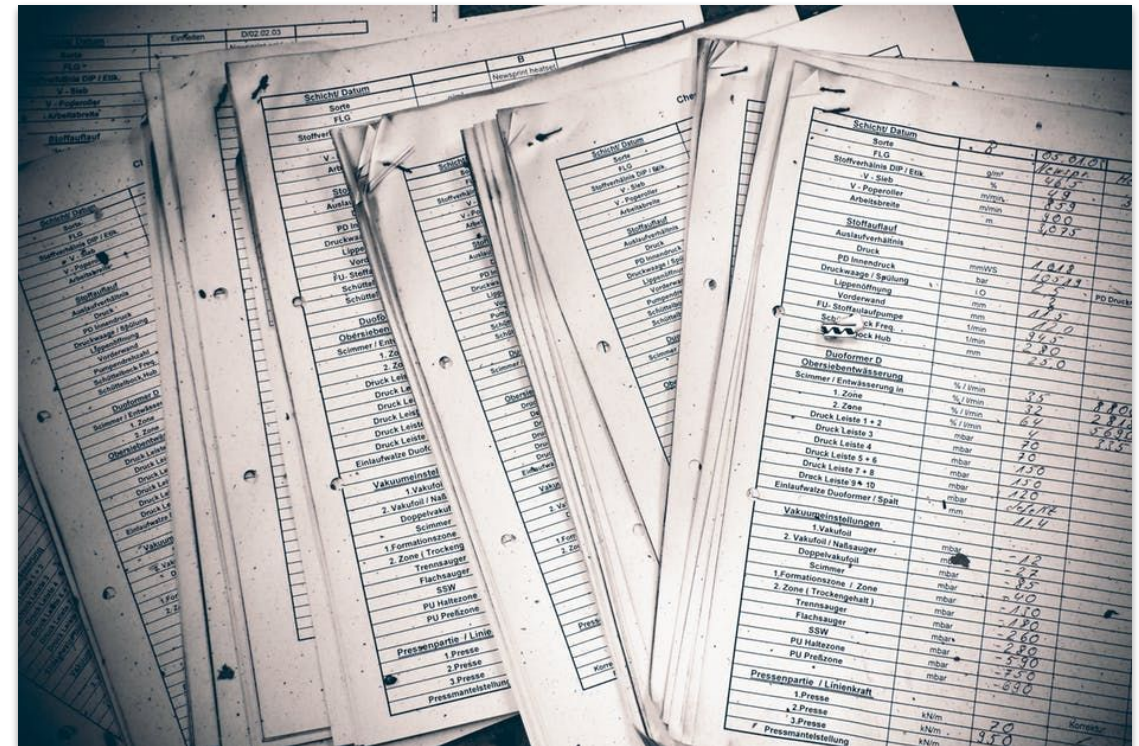
# README File

- Basic project information
- Title, Contributions, Grant Info
- Contact information
- All locations of where data live, including backups
- Useful information about the files and how they are organized
- Explain file naming conventions and abbreviations



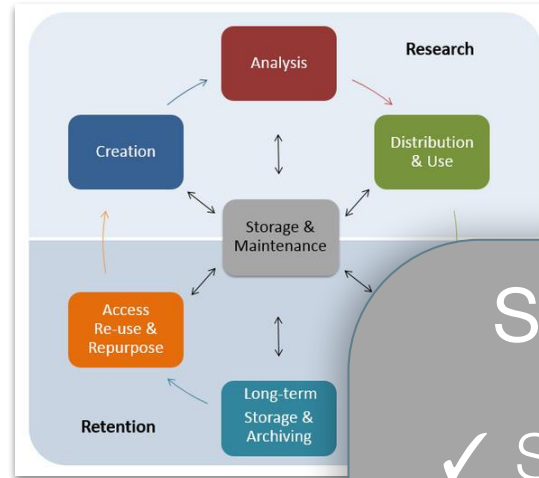
# On-Your-Own Exercise Conventions

Develop a file naming convention for your most common data type.



# Storage

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**Storage,  
backup, and  
security are  
interrelated**



## Storage & Maintenance

- ✓ Store on appropriate tier, with proper security
  - ✓ Store locally on servers or in the cloud
- ✓ Plan to maintain system

# Security

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## Access

Limiting the availability of your data

## Systems

Protecting your hardware and software

## Data Integrity

Ensure that your data is not manipulated in an unauthorized way

<https://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu/security-access>

LEVEL 1	Public information	► Level 1 Data Types
LEVEL 2	Level 2 is information the University has chosen to keep confidential but the disclosure of which would not cause material harm.	► Level 2 Data Types
LEVEL 3	Level 3 information could cause risk of material harm to individuals or the University if disclosed.	► Level 3 Data Types
LEVEL 4	Level 4 information would likely cause serious harm to individuals or the University if disclosed.	► Level 4 Data Types
LEVEL 5	Level 5 information would cause severe harm to individuals or the University if disclosed.	► Level 5 Data Types



# Electronic Lab Notebooks

## Electronic Lab Notebooks at HMS

Lab notebooks are good for writing down procedures, observations, conclusions and for drawing flow charts and diagrams by hand. However, in order to accommodate the increase of digital data collected, researchers have taped instrumentation and computer printouts onto the pages of their notebooks, or cross-referenced larger data sets by recording file names and locations in the notebook.

An ELN (electronic lab notebook) is a software tool that in its most basic form is a page in a paper lab notebook. In this electronic notebook you can write down data using your computer or mobile device. This offers several advantages over a paper notebook.

The number of available ELN tools is increasing and the functions offered by these tools may be confusing to evaluate all of the advantages and limitations of a particular tool for your project.

The Electronic Lab Notebook Matrix has been created to aid HMS researchers in choosing usable Electronic Lab Notebook solutions to meet their specific research needs. Researchers can compare and contrast the numerous solutions available in the matrix options in-depth.

Questions about Electronic Lab Notebooks at HMS? Contact us at [elnm@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:elnm@hms.harvard.edu)

Features	Specifications
	Benchling Biovia Confluence Docellab ECL ELOG Evernote Exemplar
<b>Interactivity</b>	
Intuitive Interface Design	✓ No response received
Auto Metadata Harvest	✓ No response received
Search functions can search across file formats and beyond typos	✓ No response received
Ability to manipulate files and images	✓ No response received
Support for multiple open windows	✓ No response received
Ability to link out	✗ No response received
<b>Support for Researcher Documentation</b>	
Hyperlink support	✓ No response received
Metadata Creation Prompts	✗ No response received
Rights Management (licensing)	✓ No response received
Protocol Integration	✓ No response received

Features	Specifications
	Benchling Biovia Confluence Docollab ECL ELOG Evernote Exemplar Findings Hivebench IDBS LabArchives LabCollector LabWare LabVantage LabWare
<b>Interactivity</b>	
Intuitive Interface Design	✓ No response received
Auto Metadata Harvest	✗ No response received
Search functions can search across file formats and beyond typos	✓ No response received
Ability to manipulate files and images	✓ No response received
Support for multiple open windows	✓ No response received
Ability to link out	✗ No response received
<b>Support for Researcher Documentation</b>	
Hyperlink support	✓ No response received
Metadata Creation Prompts	✗ No response received
Rights Management (licensing)	✓ No response received
Protocol Integration	✓ No response received
<b>Adaptability to Lab workflows</b>	
Accounts/Permissions Levels	✓ No response received
Internal Data Sharing	✓ No response received
Adaptable to a Variety of Workflows	✓ No response received
Compatibility with authoring tools	✓ No response received
Windows Compatible	✓ No response received
Macintosh Compatible	✓ No response received
Linux Compatible	✓ No response received
Android Compatible	✓ No response received
iOS Compatible	✓ No response received
<b>Storage</b>	
Cloud Storage	✓ No response received
Local Storage	✗ No response received
Hybrid (cloud/local) Storage	✗ No response received
Versioning	✓ No response received
File Redundancy	✓ No response received
Creates stable URLs or persistent identifiers for entries	✓ No response received
Can unregistered users access the data found at persistent links?	✓ No response received
Storage Capacity - Users	✓ No response received
Storage Capacity - Max File Size	✓ No response received

# Electronic Lab Notebook Matrix

<https://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu/electronic-lab-notebooks>

# On-Your-Own Exercise

# Storage

1. Conduct a quick inventory of your data:

- *What datasets do you have?*
- *How big are they?*

2. Inventory where your files are currently stored, including backups:

- *How safe are your data?*

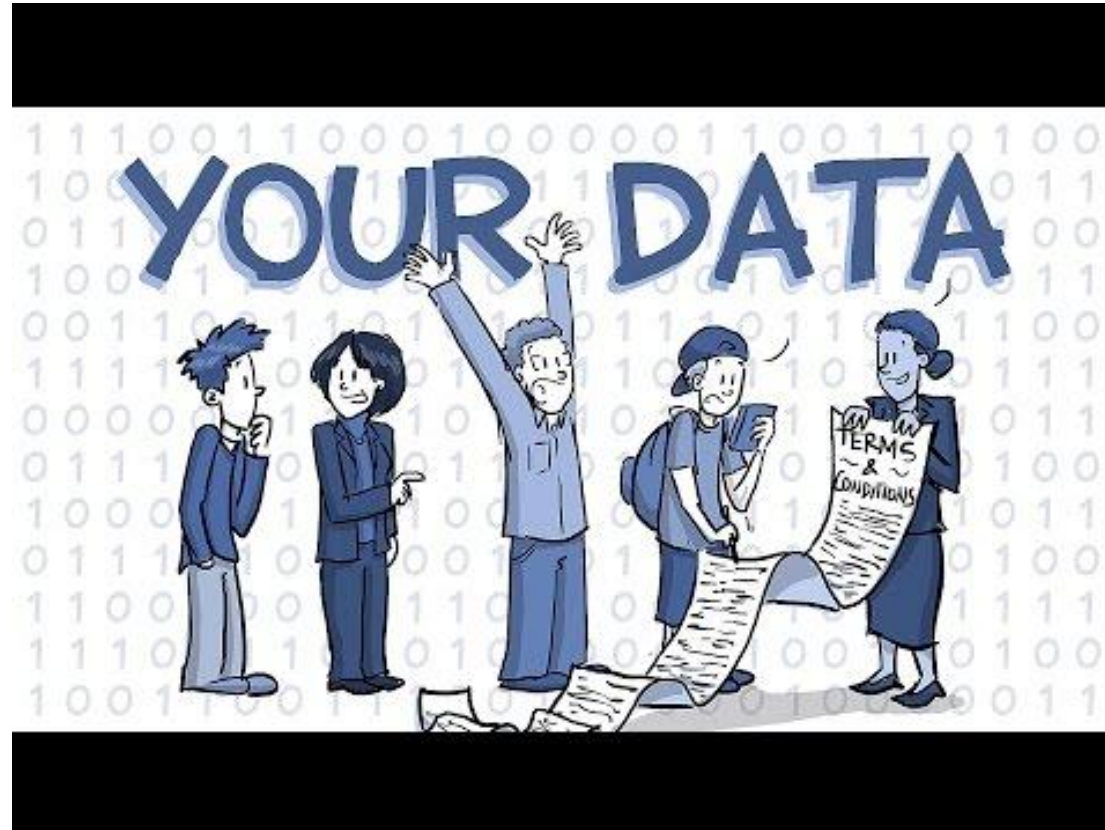
3. Do you have any PHI or HRCI data?

- *What do you need to ensure their security?*

# Ownership

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Do you know who owns your data or the dataset you are using?



Who owns your data? (Hint: It's not you)



# Data Sharing

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When establishing data sharing and access policies and provisions, consider *whom* you will share your data with, *how* it will be shared, and *when* in the research process you will share it.

## Distribution & Use

- ✓ Share data with collaborators
- ✓ Annotate datasets & upload to public repositories
  - ✓ Include in relevant publications & reports

# Citation & Attribution

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give credit  
get credit  
cite data

Acknowledgement of the use of someone else's information or work is a long-accepted practice in scholarly communication.

The following elements are generally considered the core elements of a data citation:

- *Author/Creator(s): creators of the data; can be one or more people or organizations*
- *Title: title of the data set*
- *Version: exact version or edition of the data set used*
- *Publication Date: date when the data set was published or released*
- *Publisher/Archive: data center or repository that is archiving and distributing*
- *Identifier/Locator: URL or other linkable locator for the data; a persistent, permanent URL such as a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or a handle is preferred*

# Unique Identifiers

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## Digital Object Identifier

Permanently assigned to an object to provide a resolvable persistent network link to current information about that object, including where the object, or information about it, can be found on the Internet

<https://www.doi.org>



## Open Researcher and Contributor ID

Provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher and supports automated linkages between you and your professional activities ensuring that your work is recognized

<https://orcid.org>

# On-Your-Own Exercise

# ORCiD

Don't have an ORCID?

Create one now!

It's free, easy and will last throughout your professional career!

<https://orcid.org>



## Choosing a repository

### Key questions to consider when choosing a repository:

- What are your data sharing and/or publication goals?
- What features do you require for data deposition and/or data publication?

### Considering your data sharing goals:

Scenario	Possible Solution	Example(s)
You want to release your data to the public, but you aren't ready to publish it yet.	data deposition in a repository	<a href="#">Dataverse</a> , <a href="#">figshare</a> , <a href="#">Zenodo</a>
You want to share data with collaborators, but you aren't ready to release it publicly or publish a paper about it.	data deposition in a repository with tiered access	<a href="#">figshare</a> , <a href="#">Dataverse</a> , <a href="#">Zenodo</a>
You want to publish a comprehensive research paper while also making the relevant data publicly available.	data deposition in a repository that is compatible with the journal's workflow	<a href="#">Dataverse</a> , <a href="#">Dryad</a> , <a href="#">figshare</a> , <a href="#">Zenodo</a>

Requirement	<a href="#">Dataverse</a>	<a href="#">Dryad</a>	<a href="#">figshare</a>	<a href="#">Zenodo</a>	<a href="#">GigaScience</a>	<a href="#">Scientific Data</a>
<b>Data Size and Format</b>						
• hosting of common file formats (e.g. csv, tsv, xls, xlsx, doc, pdf)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A <sup>6</sup>
• hosting of proprietary file formats (e.g. raw image files)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	N/A <sup>6</sup>
• unlimited size per file	✗	✓	✗ <sup>5</sup>	✗	✓	N/A <sup>6</sup>
• unlimited total dataset size	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A <sup>6</sup>
<b>Data Licensing</b>						
• CC0 waiver <sup>1</sup>	recommended	required	recommended	available <sup>8</sup>	required	N/A <sup>6</sup>

# Data Repository Comparison Matrix

<https://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu/overview-data-repositories>

# On-Your-Own Exercise

# Repositories

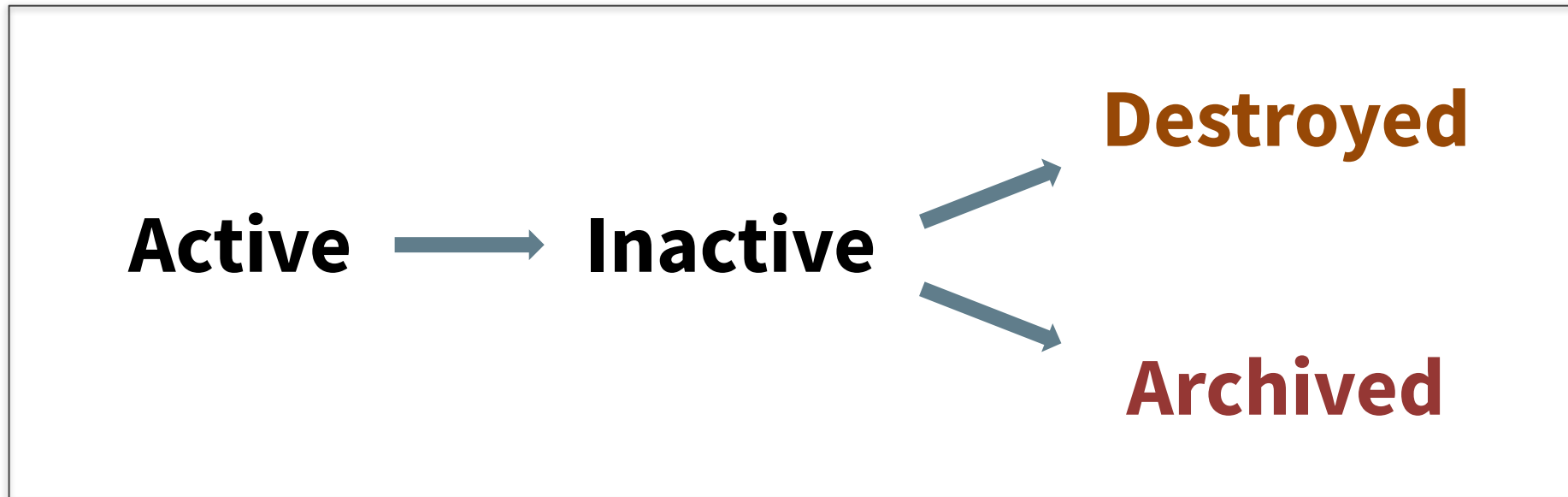
Consider your grant funding or project goals:

- Are you required to deposit your data in a repository?
- What repository(ies) will work for your dataset?



# Research Records

## Four Types of Records



# Retention

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Data retention requirements are put in place by funding agencies and sponsoring institutions for a number of reasons:

- *promote the reuse of data within and across disciplines*
- *protect intellectual property rights*
- *make research findings available*
- *support open data initiatives*

## Evaluate for Retention

- ✓ Identify and retain essential research records
- ✓ Organize and annotate appropriately



# Appraisal & Archiving

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Appraisal process for evaluating research records and data:

- ***Inventory of the records:*** volume, data types, formats, metadata, other relevant information
- ***Interview about the project:*** impact of the project, significance of the research or researcher, basic information about the grant

## Long-term Storage & Archiving

- ✓ In compliance with HMS & federal policy
- ✓ As requested by investigators

# Questions?

## Harvard Biomedical Data Management

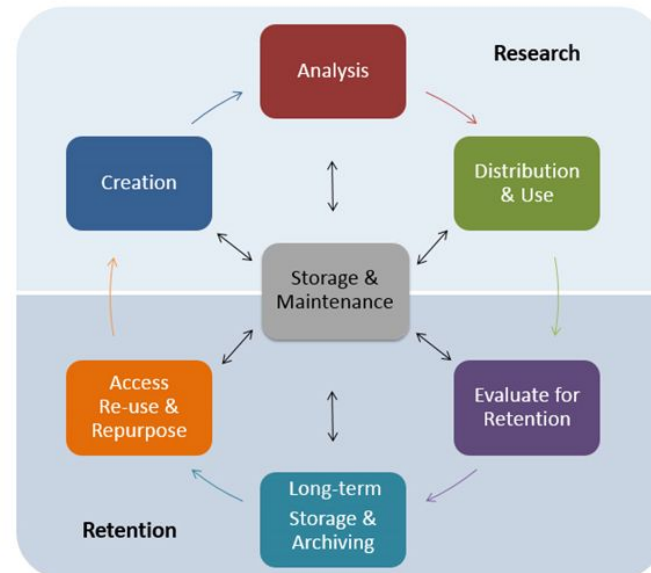
*Best practices & support services for research data lifecycles*

[About](#) ▾ [Best Practices](#) ▾ [Planning](#) ▾ [Data Repositories](#) ▾ [Storage](#) ▾ [Policies](#) ▾ [Harvard Open Access](#)

### Data Management

Data Management is the process of providing the appropriate labeling, storage, and access for data at all stages of a research project. We recognize that best practices for each of these aspects of data management can and often do change over time, and are different for different stages in the data lifecycle.

**Early and attentive management at each step of the data lifecycle will ensure the discoverability and longevity of your research.**



← May 2018 →

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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## BEST PRACTICES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

Started Jan 8, 2018

**COURSE DATE:**  
Starts Jan 8, 2018

**DURATION:**  
On-going

**COMMITMENT:**  
7+ hrs/week

**REQUIREMENT:**  
None

**COURSE TYPE:**  
Self-paced

**CREDENTIAL:**  
Badge, Certificate  
(free)

# Open Online Course via Canvas

<http://bit.ly/HMS-RDM-MOOC>

# Upcoming Seminars

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## Getting Started with Data Management Plans

Monday, July 23

12:30 – 1:20 pm

HSPH FXB Building Room G12

**Register:** <http://bit.ly/RDM-7-23>

## Tips and Tools for Data Storage at Harvard

Wednesday, August 8

12:30 – 1:20 pm

HSPH FXB Building Room G12

**Register:** <http://bit.ly/RDM-8-8>

**[bit.ly/rdm-survey](https://bit.ly/rdm-survey)**

# Key Resources

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**Harvard Biomedical Data Management**

<http://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu>

**Center for the History of Medicine | Archives and Records Management**

<https://www.countway.harvard.edu/chom/archives-and-records-management>

**Research Information Technology Solutions**

<http://rits.hms.harvard.edu>

**Office of the Vice Provost for Research | Research Data Security & Management**

<https://vpr.harvard.edu/pages/research-data-security-and-management>

**Harvard Catalyst | The Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center**

<http://catalyst.harvard.edu>

**Office for Scholarly Communications**

<https://osc.hul.harvard.edu/policies>