What is the level of need for data services and support at Rollins College?

The Results of a Faculty Focus Group Project

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Discipline Breakdown of Focus Group Participants

- Physics
- Environmental Studies
- Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Political Science
- Sociology

- Psychology
- Librarianship
- Sculpture Art
- History
- Communications
- Health Professions (Graduate School)

Types of Questions We Asked

1. The nature and **format** of their research data

2. Their **process** of creating, updating, and saving research data

3. Their **perspective on Open Data** and how/if they share their research data

4. Their experience with **discipline-specific data repositories** and Research Data Management Plans

5. Their **current challenges** with research data, and how the college could **better support** them

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Revealing Responses

1. Rollins faculty members are true **"independent" researchers.**

2. They rely on their **own personal resources** (financial and IT) to store and backup their research data.

3. Many use open data repositories, but **few share their own data sets openly**.

4. Most have research collaborators to share data sets with, but these **collaborations prove logistically challenging.**

5. All are challenged by **training students** in data literacy.

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Surprises

Faculty who **teach** data collection and analysis:

● Want students to have a **secure place to store data** and return to it.

● Want more **instructional support** in the form of a data specialist who can provide support in training students.

● Would consider **providing their own data sets** to a local repository for the purpose of enhancing student data literacy.

Takeaways

The library and IT **CAN** do more to support our faculty researchers, their data sets, and their students.

We plan to explore:

- The formation of a **Data Research Management Service Team** to offer professional guidance for our faculty researchers working with data.

- Investing in a **institutional data repository** to provide secure storage and controlled access to the data sets of both Rollins faculty and students.

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Trinity's Survey

80 Oberlin Group Libraries

25 Responses

Who does RDMS in your library?

n = 25

No one	29%
A single individual	25%
Other*	25%
An inter-dept group	13%
A department or unit	8%

*Science librarian and Data/Digital Services (2)
 A mix of staff with varied expertise (2)

Informational / Instructional Support

n = 24

Data management plans	71%
Funders' RDM requirements	67%
RDM best practices	67%
Finding/applying metadata	58%
Credit-bearing courses	8%

Infrastructure / Technical Support

n = 24

Find/cite datasets & repositories   85%
Identify data repositories   75%
Data management systems*   61%
Tools for data analysis   42%
Tools for GIS/geospatial analysis   42%
Prepare data for deposit   39%
Create or apply metadata   33%

*Dataverse (2), Digital Commons (5),
ICPSR (2), Islandora (2), Unspecified (2)

What influenced your RDMS?

n = 21

Faculty need/requests	52%
Staff expertise	24%
Open data initiatives	4%

How were your RDMS developed?

n = 22

Opportunistically	59%
Strategically	0%
Both	23%
"Just happened"	18%

Which RDMS is most popular?

n = 15

Don't distinguish / Don't track   74%
Data management plans   20%
Metadata for I.R. submissions   6%

"Very few requests."
"Very little uptake."

Challenges

"Limited personnel and time."

"Limited use."

"Don't understand level of demand."

"Hard to get buy-in."

"Takes a while to get faculty on board."

"Faculty assume the library can't help with RDMS."

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1. How many FTE undergraduate students are enrolled at your institution?
2. How many FTE graduate students are enrolled at your institution?
3. How many tenure-track and tenured faculty are employed at your institution?
4. Has your library ever conducted a needs assessment to gauge your institution's needs for research data management services?
   a. No
   b. Yes
5. Who in the library provides research data management services?
   a. My library does not provide data management services.
   b. A single individual.
   c. A department or unit.
   d. An inter-departmental group or team.
   e. Other. Please explain.
6. What other departments or offices on campus offer any form of research data management services?
   a. None.
   b. Information Technology / Academic Computing.
   c. Office of Research.
   d. Other. Please explain.
7. If other departments on campus offer research data management services, does the library partner/coordinate/collaborate with those departments?
   a. No
   b. Yes
   c. Not applicable
8. Is your library involved with establishing institution-level research data management policies?
   a. No
   b. Yes. Please explain.
9. Does your library provide information about the research data management requirements of grant-funding agencies, such as the NSF? Please select all that apply.
   a. No.
   b. Yes, via online guides.
   c. Yes, via scheduled workshops or training sessions.
   d. Yes, via on-demand consultations.
   e. Yes, other. Please explain.
10. Does your library provide information for researchers developing data management plans (DMPs)? Please select all that apply.
    a. No.
    b. Yes, via online guides.
    c. Yes, via scheduled workshops or training sessions.
    d. Yes, via on-demand consultations.
    e. Yes, other. Please explain.

11. Does your library provide information about best practices in data management (e.g. file-naming, data sharing, data security)? Please select all that apply.
    a. No.
    b. Yes, via online guides.
    c. Yes, via scheduled workshops or training sessions.
    d. Yes, via on-demand consultations.
    e. Yes, other. Please explain.
12. Does your library provide information on finding and applying metadata standards to research data? Please select all that apply.
    a. No.
    b. Yes, via online guides.
    c. Yes, via scheduled workshops or training sessions.
    d. Yes, via on-demand consultations.
    e. Yes, other. Please explain.
13. Does your library provide information on other topics or skills related to research data management? Please select all that apply.
    a. No.
    b. Yes, via online guides.
    c. Yes, via scheduled workshops or training sessions.
    d. Yes, via on-demand consultations.
    e. Yes, other. Please explain.
14. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, please describe the other topics or skills you cover.
15. Does your library support any content related to research data management in credit-bearing courses?
    a. No.
    b. Yes. Please explain.
16. If your library provides workshops or consultations, to whom are they targeted? Please select all that apply.
    a. Students
    b. Faculty
    c. Staff
    d. Varies. Please explain.
17. Does your library provide information on finding and citing data, datasets, and data repositories? Please select all that apply.
    a. No.
    b. Yes, via online guides.
    c. Yes, via scheduled workshops or training sessions.
    d. Yes, via on-demand consultations.
    e. Yes, other. Please explain.
18. Does your library provide tools for data analysis (SPSS, etc.)?
    a. No.
    b. Yes. Please specify.
19. Does your library provide support for GIS or geospatial analysis?
    a. No.

    b. Yes. Please specify.
20. Does your library provide technical support for any kind of research data management system (e.g. data repository, access or discovery systems for data)?
    a. No.
    b. Yes. Please explain.
21. Does your library help researchers identify appropriate data repositories (that is, other than a local institutional repository)?
    a. No.
    b. Yes.
22. Does your library help researchers prepare data or datasets for deposit to a repository or journal publisher?
    a. No.
    b. Yes.
23. Does your library help researchers create or apply metadata to datasets for description or discoverability?
    a. No.
    b. Yes.
24. Does your library provide any other kind of infrastructure or technical services for research data management?
    a. No.
    b. Yes. Please explain.
25. What influenced your library's decision to offer your particular mix of research data management services?
26. Would you say that your research data management services were developed opportunistically or strategically. Please explain.
27. What barriers or obstacles have hindered the development of your research data management services (personnel, technology, training, etc.)?
28. In what ways do your market your research data management services?
29. Through what channels does your library receive requests for research data management services? Please select all that apply.
    a. Direct contact to the staff providing research data management services.
    b. Inquiries through the general reference service points in person, by telephone, by email, or by chat.
    c. Contact through departmental liaisons or subject specialists.
    d. Referrals from the Department of Research or other non-library campus office.
    e. Other. Please specify.
30. Are there any research data management services you do not currently offer, but intend to make available in the future?
    a. No.
    b. Yes. Please specify.
31. In what ways do you track use or otherwise assess your research data management services? Which services are most popular? Which are least popular?