RSM 574/674 Data Management in the Research Environment

pre-course survey and term-project brainstorming

Welcome the Data Management in the Research Environment!

The goal of this course is to make you a better planner who is more efficient, more creative, more confident, and more productive in your research activities. We cannot provide any magic bullets for your particular data challenges in your current research project. Instead we can provide a set of approaches that will guide you in your professional career as you learn to navigate new technologies and adjust to a constantly changing research environment.

As with any course, what you put in is what you get out. We have a small class that makes your participation very important. It is well known that peer-to-peer teaching is by far the best and collaboration in this course is highly encouraged. You all come from different backgrounds and learning to work together by combining your experiences will make this course better. We will also expand our abilities to have inter- and cross- disciplinary conversations; an increasingly important skill.

For these, and several other reasons, we ask that you answer the questions below and turn in this pre-course survey before class on Wednesday January 20th. This will help us adjust this course to everyone’s needs.

Please write your answers directly in this document and send to [tnorris@miami.edu](mailto:tnorris@miami.edu) and [aclark@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:aclark@rsmas.miami.edu) with a file name in the following format:

201601<twoDigitDay>.RSM.574.674\_<yourLastName>\_preCourseSurvey.docx

RSM 574/675 pre-course survey

Name, Program, Year

Advisor and research topic (if applicable)

Please describe your hopes for this course (be as detailed or specific as you like). What do you want to gain? Perhaps see the syllabus on blackboard.

Are you a Mac, PC, or Linux person? Other?

Try to describe your level of computer skills. How do you use computers in your daily/professional life? Is there anything exciting, hopeful, or worrisome about computers in the research environment (a little philosophy perhaps – take as much space as you want)?

What is your preferred text editor?

Do you know what the acronym XML means? CSV? SQL?

Do you use the command line in the terminal more than once a week? If so, what are the common commands you use?

Do you write/edit code? If so, what languages (programming or scripting)?

Do you use relational databases? If so, which one(s)?

Do you have a preferred data repository (place you get data)? If so, which one?

Extra project brainstorming

What are your first thoughts on the term project? It will be good to start thinking about this now so that as we progress through the material, you will be able to see how it applies to your work. There is no need to create a special project for this class. Instead it will be to your advantage to use something from other classes, your research lab, or even your own research project or internship.

If you do not have answers to the questions below, that is not a problem. For those that can answer the questions, it may be to your advantage to start a sort of digital journal (a text file that you can constantly add to) based on the questions/prompts below.

What is the purpose or application of your work?

What kind of data you will be collecting/using?

What kinds of process steps will you be using for collection and analysis? Software?

How much data (size and number of files)?

What are common file formats for your data?

Who will be interested in this data? Why?

We will add more questions as the course progresses. You can also add extra information as you see fit.