



# Fall Town Hall: Report on RDM Consultations

# What is Research Data Management?

- The organization and maintenance of data through the research process
- Includes
  - Setting up plans and processes before starting data collection
  - Keeping track of, documenting, and backing up data during the research project
  - Archiving or publishing data after the project has completed
- If you collect or use data, you do RDM

# Tri-Agency Data Management Policy

- Policy includes 3 requirements:
  - Institutions: Institutional Strategy
  - Researchers: Data Management Plans
  - Researchers: Data Deposit
- DMP requirements being rolled out gradually
  - some grants will require them, others may not

# Institutional Strategy Requirement

- The main point of the strategy is to outline how the institution will enable researchers to deal with the other two aspects of the Tri-Agency policy, the requirements for data management plans and data deposit

# Data Management Plans

- A DMP is just that – a plan for managing data.
- In grant applications, a DMP is a part of the research proposal package that demonstrates that the researcher has a sensible plan for managing their data.
- Data management plans are not arcane or complex - they primarily are concerned with the technicalities of what data you are going to collect, where you are going to put it, and how long you are going to keep it around for.

# Data deposit requirement

- “In cases where journal publications, pre-prints and other research outputs arise from agency-supported research, researchers may be required to deposit research data and code in an appropriate repository.”
- Goals:
  - Ensure proper use of public funds
  - Facilitate reproducibility of results
  - Facilitate data sharing
- Deposit needs to be addressed in the DMP – either how you will do it or why not
- Deposit is not the same as open sharing



# Tri-Agency on Data Sharing

- This is what the Policy says about data sharing:

Grant recipients are not required to share their data. However, the agencies expect researchers to provide appropriate access to the data *where ethical, cultural, legal and commercial requirements allow*, and in accordance with the FAIR principles and the standards of their disciplines.



# Unshareable data

- Reasons data can't be shared may include ethical considerations, indigenous data sovereignty, data ownership, or intellectual property
- If you as a researcher think in good faith that there is a significant ethics, security or ownership issue that makes sharing inadvisable... **you are probably right**. It's your data, you know it best.
- Explain the reasoning in your Data Management Plan and outline how you will handle preservation of your data without sharing or explain why preservation is inadvisable.



# Western's Response to the Policy



working group, development of draft strategy, future plans

# Background: RDM at Western

- 2017: Western Libraries and Western Research established a RDM subcommittee
- Conducted survey of faculty RDM practices along with other institutions across Canada
- RDM committee issued [report](#) that identified specific needs: education on data management plans, software and hardware support for researchers, establishing a data sharing culture at Western, and providing venues for long term data storage
- To better support RDM a Research Data Management was hired in 2019. Committee evolved into the Research Data Infrastructures working group, responsible for developing RDM strategy and supports

# Research Data Infrastructures Working Group

- Western Libraries:
  - Kristi Thompson, Research Data Management Librarian (Co-chair), Western Libraries
  - Elizabeth Hill, Data Librarian (Co-chair), Western Libraries
  - Robert Glushko, Associate Chief Librarian
- Western Research:
  - Erika Basile, Director, Research Ethics and Compliance, Western Research
  - Katie Big-Canoe, Indigenous Research Officer, contributed on Indigenous data considerations
  - Jacqueline Burkell, Associate Vice President Research, Western University
  - Lisa Cechetto, Executive Director
  - Natalie Wu, Director, Research Services
- WTS:
  - Mark Daley, Chief Digital Information Officer
  - Brent Fowles, Director of Cybersecurity and Business Services, Western Technology Services
- Colin Couchman, Chief Data Officer,
- Rupinder Mann, Program Manager of Research Informatics, Lawson Research Institute – Lawson liaison
- Janis Cardy, Associate Dean of Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, former member, managed testing of DMP template

# Approach

- Group consisted of expertise from Western Research, the Library, and representatives from technology leaders.
- Up to this point we have been dealing with the obvious technical and resource challenges to meet *basic* Tri-Agency compliance

# Basic provisions

- Library supports data deposit through local archiving options, consults on Data Management Plans, provides training
- Infrastructure and support for active data management will be implemented by Western Technology Services
- Western Research will help coordinate and direct researchers to resources

# Strategy

- Developed a strategy to keep us in compliance with funding agency requirements. But we can't let that be enough.
- Strategy outlines current resources and commits the University to develop to meet current and future RDM needs
- We know that we will need resources, policies and infrastructure – that we need to grow our capacity.
- The first step needed to be assessment and consultation.

# Indigenous data considerations

- Data related to research by and with Indigenous peoples needs to be managed in a way that reflects their sovereignty and right to self-determination.
- We acknowledge our institutional responsibility to respect and protect Indigenous knowledge and data, and to build capacity for doing this work.
- We need to work with our Indigenous partners to explore how we can best support indigenous Data Sovereignty
  - At this point we have identified some existing gaps and recognize that we are not able to solve them alone - this will require a separate approach

# Consultants

- We engaged Atheneum Consulting to look at the environment, look at what other institutions are doing and consult with Western stakeholders including faculty. They have experience in this work including having worked with other Universities in Ontario on their RDM strategy.
- This town hall was called as a forum for them to report back on their findings to the campus.



# Athenaeum21

Athenaeum21 is a strategy and technology planning consultancy engaged by Western for this work. A21 is known for engagement with other Canadian universities around their RDM strategies and digital strategies.