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Lifecycle of Data Management Best Practices Workshops at the University of Connecticut

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Lifecycle of Data Management Best Practices Workshops at the University of Connecticut

**Assumptions**
- Graduate students have little formal training in data management
- Graduate students handle research data
- Best practices information will be of interest
- A collaborative instructional approach by data support services (Library, UITS, OSP) is more useful than any individual approach
- A wide range of topics will tell us which resonate with graduate students

**Experts**
- Library:
  - Preservation and Data Management Services Librarian
  - Metadata Librarian
  - Science Librarian
- Office for Sponsored Programs
  - Director
- University IT
  - Computer Security Staff
  - Systems Administrator
- Endorsement and introduction by the Chief Information Officer for UConn

**Outcomes**
What did we learn from these workshops?
- Students ranked data organization, storage, security, metadata and DMP plan information as the most important topics
- Students handle lots of research data, have little formal data management instruction and are very interested in learning more
- The big general workshop model was useful but too broad and too much info at once
- More in-depth info on specific topics is needed
- Instruction focused on needs of particular disciplines optimal
- Each collaborative partner is willing to participate further

What is happening as a result of the workshops?
- Developed listserv ManagingData-L for UConn research data community
- Restructured our Data Management LibGuide to reflect workshop contents and to link to workshop recording and powerpoints
- Beginning to approach departments to find out specific needs

**Content**
- Curriculum from the UMass IMLS grants framework
- Segments on data organization, storage and security, metadata, archiving, sharing of data, and legal concerns
- Many topics were covered, none in depth
- Each topic included links for further learning
- Extensive powerpoint slides available as handouts
- Highlighted different security concerns for active data gathering stage versus finished data’s requirements for sharing access
- A pre-workshop questionnaire and a post-workshop evaluation provided ample information about student wants and needs.

**Audience**
The workshop was widely publicized to all graduate students. Those who attended were:
- Mostly doctoral graduate students
- Mainly in science and social science
- A few faculty and professional staff
- Some library staff

Carolyn Mills, Science Librarian
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Data Management LibGuide:
URL: http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/datamanagement