Data Repositories: The Answer that Actually Came with a Question

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Data Repositories

The answer that actually came with a question

Lisa Johnston
Research Data Management/Curation Lead,
University of Minnesota
What are data repositories?

“A repository (also referred to as a data repository or digital data repository) is a **searchable** and **queryable** interfacing entity that is able to store, manage, maintain and curate Data/Digital Objects. A repository is a **managed** location (destination, directory or ‘bucket’) where digital data objects are registered, permanently stored, made **accessible** and **retrievable**, and curated. Repositories preserve, manage, and provide access to many types of digital material in a variety of formats. Materials in online repositories are **curated** to enable search, discovery, and reuse. There must be sufficient control for the digital material to be authentic, reliable, accessible and usable on a continuing basis. (p3, footnote 2).”
**Why are data repositories useful?**

- Governments have open data initiatives
  - Democratize research results
  - Release the potential of valuable/$$ data

- Federal/private funders increasingly require data sharing
  - Public access
  - Return on $$ investment ⇒ do new research

- Journals have data sharing policies
  - Increase transparency
  - Facilitate reproducibility

- Researcher/disciplinary culture shift in digital age
  - Ease of sharing ⇒ greater potential for reuse
  - Citation impact, reputation building

**Citation:** These ideas expanded in Johnston, Lisa R. (in press). “Introduction.” Curating Research Data Volume 1: Practical Strategies for Your Digital Repository. ACRL Press.
What kinds of data repositories exist?

Disciplinary Data Repositories

And 1516 more listings at http://www.re3data.org/
What kinds of data repositories exist?

General Data Repositories

- figshare
- Zenodo
- Mendeley Data
- Dataverse
- Open Science Framework
- openICPSR
What kinds of data repositories exist?

Institutional Data Repositories

Running...

- Dataverse
- Digital Commons
- DSpace
- EPrints
- Fedora
- HubZero
- Hydra
- Islandora
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How do I build an institutional data repository?

Blueprint for Institutional Data Repositories

Nancy McGovern’s Three-Legged Stool of building an organization's digital preservation program…

- technological infrastructure
- organizational infrastructure
- resources framework

Citation: http://www.iassistdata.org/downloads/2006/f2_mcgovern.pdf
How do I build an institutional data repository?

Blueprint for Institutional Data Repositories

Lisa’s three-legged stool for building a data repository (basically the same…)

- technological infrastructure
- organizational infrastructure
- resources framework

Image: https://placeshakers.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/stool-parody.jpg
Launched Nov 2014
Available to U of M researchers and provides:

- Open access
- Curation services
- Permanent identifiers (DOI)
- Flexible Licenses
- File download analytics
- Preservation
How do I build my institutional data repositories?

Organizational Infrastructure

- Libraries DM+C Initiative 2014-2015 with dedicated resources and a 19-person team
  - Business model
  - Policies
  - Services

- Existing libraries digital preservation framework

- Campus: New research data management policy

- Marketing: Official launch in March 2015

Citation: “The Supporting Documentation for Implementing the Data Repository for the University of Minnesota (DRUM): A Business Model, Functional Requirements, and Metadata Schema” at http://hdl.handle.net/11299/171761.
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Citation: https://www.lib.umn.edu/dp/digital-preservation-framework
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Citation: https://policy.umn.edu/research/researchdata
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Image: http://continuum.umn.edu/email/2015/drum/
Case Study: Building the Data Repo for the U of M

Technical Infrastructure

- DRUM part of existing IR (DSpace):
  - Metadata schema
  - Collection home page
  - Record view

- Meet federal funding requirements

- Curation procedures
  - Sensitive Data
  - Readme Template
  - Transform File Formats

IR: https://conservancy.umn.edu/
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Handout: https://www.lib.umn.edu/datamanagement/sensitive
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Download: z.umn.edu/readme
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Download: Excel Archival Tool Software (Github download) http://z.umn.edu/exceltool
Case Study: Building the Data Repo for the U of M

Resources Infrastructure

- Funding for DataCite DOIs
- Staffing Model
- Training for new curation staff
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Conclusions

- Greater exposure of library services on campus
- Data repositories open up new conversations and opportunities (e.g., big data, campus networks, policies)
- Rewarding work to partner with researchers to publish their data sets.
Thanks and Questions

Keep building those stools...