Data Curation at Drexel University–Initial Steps and Vision

Jay Bhatt
Holly Tomren
Why Data Management?

Data management plan is now required as part of the grant application process by NSF and many other granting agencies.

Ensure that data is collected, identified, preserved and stored in appropriate ways.

Increase the value and visibility of your research.

Verify the validity of your research, and to extend the use of your data into additional inquiries.
Drexel Data Curation - Beginnings

- Data overload
  - Multidisciplinary
  - Need to archive, preserve, access and retrieve

- NSF and NIH requirements for data archiving

- Data Curation – initial steps
  - Data Curation Guidance Task Force established
  - Managing digital data for discovery and reuse
  - Understanding needs to build expertise in preservation, archiving, curating, metadata, instruction, and consultation.
  - Finding Digital data created by our faculty - a big challenge
Taskforce as a Team

- Five task force members
  - One convener and one sponsor
  - Two liaison librarians representing engineering, and humanities and social sciences
  - One education and outreach Librarian
- Group effort
- Document sharing through Google Doc
- Recommendations discussed, shared and revised
Focus attention on helping design effective solutions to support researchers.

The task force researched and identified various resources available.

Identified priorities for data curation, archiving and preservation

Created an FAQ based simple document for researchers
* Needs of Drexel Researchers
  * Data Management Plan - understanding to meet NSF and other grant application requirements

* Are there any guidelines/interpretations publicly available?
  * Which of these guidelines will help Drexel researchers?
  * What should the introductory webpage and handout for data curation planning include?

* Various issues related to data curation
  * Datasets
  * Types of data produced
  * Metadata associated
  * Storage requirements
  * Intellectual property related
  * Awareness and training
Initial recommendations:

- Investigate implementing a Drexel-customized instance of the DMPTool (see below).
- Provide staff training opportunities in data curation, particularly for liaison librarians.
- Hold a workshop/instruction series for Drexel researchers.
- Actively partner with Office of Research Administration and IRT to collaborate on building a data management infrastructure.
DMP tool will guide researchers to draft data management plans for submitting grants.

Identify needs for managing other stages of handling digital data produced through research.

Group Faculty seek assistance from the Libraries to provide support in use of the tool

- Assistance in the creation of digital collections, preservation of data, or use of such data in teaching and research.
- Develop understanding of researcher needs for assistance and design services

Libraries will provide support to assist researchers meet their needs.
DMP Tool

* DMP Tool
  * This online tool was developed by a group of research institutions to help researchers generate data management plans.
  * It currently contains guidelines for data management plan requirements from IMLS, NEH, NSF and NIH.
* Customizable
  * provide links, help text, and suggested text for sections of data management plans.
* Drexel Libraries portal to DMP Tool: http://www.library.drexel.edu/resources_guides/data-management/
Data Management Planning

DMPTool

Major funding agencies now require that researchers plan for managing their research data and incorporate a description of their data management plan in applications for funding. A group of research institutions have partnered to create this Tool to simplify the process of writing data management plans by clarifying the questions to be addressed, and by providing suggested text.

To use the DMPTool:

1. Connect using the link below
2. Select "Drexel University" from the list of institutions
3. Indicate whether you are a New User or Returning User
4. If a New User, you will be asked to create a DMPTool account with a username and password; password must be 8-30 characters. Please use your Drexel/Drexelmed email address.
5. Select your proposed funding agency from the dropdown list, then proceed through the steps of the Tool.

Connect to DMPTool

You can export your resulting plan to save to your local drive (in .txt or .rtf format) or create a pdf that will allow you to share your plan (via a Tool-generated URL) with collaborators.

Assistance from the Libraries

Libraries staff can assist you in navigating the DMPTool, and in exploring options for data management and curation.

Please contact datamanagement@drexel.edu, or contact Holly Tomren, Head of Metadata Services, at 215-895-2761 to request assistance.
Data Management FAQs

**Why is data management important?**

The simple answer is that a data management plan is now required as part of the grant application process by NSF and many other granting agencies. More extensively, a data management plan is important to ensure that data is collected, identified, preserved and stored in appropriate ways. Doing so can increase the value and visibility of your research; it allows you and other researchers to further verify the validity of your research, and to extend the use of your data into additional inquiries.

**When I think of data, I think of numbers; what else is included in the term “data” for this purpose?**

Data can include information in any form that is the product of your research; text, such as qualitative observations, transcripts of interview — or sound files to preserve the interviews themselves, images in various formats, and of course, numerical data.

**What needs to be included in a data management plan?**

The exact requirements will be dictated by the agency to which the application is to be submitted. In general, a data management plan will include: Description of the project Description of the data to be collected Methodology for collecting data Standards to be applied for data formats and metadata Provisions for both short-term data maintenance and storage, and long-term preservation and storage of data Legal or ethical issues involved in disseminating/allowing access to data Whether and how data will be made available to others.
Evolve Libraries’ role in data/digital management support for campus, and confirm selection of DMPTool

- Demonstrate DMPTool to high-level administrators and committees to confirm usefulness.
- Customize the DMPTool working with the Office of Research.
- Scan the data/digital object management environment (this may involve extending the products of the Data Curation Guidance Task Force) for developments
Through focus on use of the DMPTool grow our understanding of researcher needs for assistance with data/digital object management planning.

- Researchers contact Head of Metadata Services, who will arrange consultation interviews with the members of the Working Group
- Working Group listens for key issues, records impressions and needs, meets to develop general support service description and evolving approaches to services
- Working Group provides responsive assistance to researchers, identifying consultants, useful resources, etc.
- Continue environmental scan for new developments
* Through experience and testing, develop and share a vision for long-term implementation of the Libraries’ data/digital object management support service
* Explore what is needed to engage liaison librarians in long-term service.
* Identify how to implement as long-term service
* Transition resources and contacts to support long-term implementers
Thank you!

* Jay Bhatt
  * Liaison Librarian for Engineering
  * bhattjj@drexel.edu
  * 215-897-1873

* Holly Tomren
  * Head of Metadata Services
  * ht97@drexel.edu
  * 215 895-2761