McMaster Research Data Management Needs Survey

To better support research at McMaster, the Research Data Management Institutional Strategy Working Group (https://rdm.mcmaster.ca/iswg) invites you to complete this survey, which seeks to understand present and future Research Data Management (RDM) practices, challenges, and needs within the institution. Your feedback will inform McMaster's RDM Institutional Strategy, which is being developed to meet requirements of the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy (https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97610.html).

What are Research Data and Research Data Management?

From the Tri-Agency RDM Policy, FAQs: (https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97609.html#1b)

*"**Research data management** refers to the processes applied through the lifecycle of a research project to guide the collection, documentation, storage, sharing and preservation of research data. **Research data** are data used as primary sources to support technical or scientific enquiry, research, scholarship, or creative practice, and that are used as evidence in the research process and/or are commonly accepted in the research community as necessary to validate research findings and results".*

Research data are created within all disciplines of study, may be quantitative and/or qualitative in nature, and can consist of experimental data, observational data, operational data, third party data, public sector data, monitoring data, processed data, or repurposed data. See the Tri-Agency FAQs (https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97609.html#1b) for more information.

Who should complete this survey?

All faculty, staff, and graduate students conducting research at McMaster are invited to participate.

How will responses be managed and used?

Responses to this survey are anonymous. Summarized results will be shared with the McMaster research community via the Institutional Strategy Working Group homepage (https://rdm.mcmaster.ca/iswg). Findings from the Working Group's analyses will be incorporated into a draft RDM Institutional Strategy, which will be submitted to the Research Information Technology Committee prior to broader engagement with and review by the McMaster research community.

Should you have any questions about this survey, services offered at McMaster, or the Working Group, please contact rdm@mcmaster.ca (mailto:rdm@mcmaster.ca) for more information.

This survey will ask how you work with research data, how you share your data, your awareness of funding mandates for research data management, and basic demographic questions about your professional status. The estimated time to complete the survey is approximately 15 minutes. We would appreciate your response by **January 7th, 2021**.

There are 21 questions in this survey.

Demographics

1

What is your primary status at McMaster? *

❶ Choose one of the following answers
Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Faculty (including adjunct, emerti, clinical)

○ Masters student (research-based)

○ PhD student

○ Postdoctoral Fellow

○ Research Staff (including assistants, coordinators, etc)

○ Prefer not to answer

○ Other [   ]

2

What is your primary Faculty affiliation? *

❶ Choose one of the following answers
Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Business

○ Engineering

○ Health Sciences (including hospital affiliations)

○ Humanities

○ Science

○ Social Sciences

○ Prefer not to answer

○ Other [   ]

Current Research Data Management Practices

3

Do you currently hold or have you previously held a research grant with data management requirements? *

❶ Choose one of the following answers
Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Yes

○ No

○ Prefer not to answer

4

What data management requirements did that grant have? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
Answer was 'Yes' at question ' [grant]' (Do you currently hold or have you previously held a research grant with data management requirements?)

❶ Check all that apply
Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ I was required to create a Data Management Plan

☐ I was required to create a Data Sharing Plan

☐ I was required to share the data resulting from the grant

☐ I was required to deposit the data resulting from the grant

☐ My grant came with special data security requirements

☐ I don't know

☐ Prefer not to answer

☐ Other: [   ]

A **Data Management Plan** is a formal document that details the strategies and tools you will use to effectively manage your data both during your research project and after its completion.

A **Data Sharing Plan** is a document describing how data collected during the research project will be distributed or shared.

5

Did you use a template to create your Data Management or Sharing Plan? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
Answer was 'I was required to create a Data Sharing Plan' *or* 'I was required to create a Data Management Plan' at question ' [dmpreq]' (What data management requirements did that grant have?)

❗ Choose one of the following answers
Please choose **only one** of the following:

◯ I used a specific template provided by my funding agency

◯ I used a generic template

◯ I created my DMP without a template

◯ Prefer not to answer

◯ Other [   ]

DMP templates may be specific to a grant and created by a funding agency, or generic templates created by a third party organization like the Portage Network.

6

What types of sensitivities (if any) do your data contain? *

❗ Check all that apply
Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Personal health information or patient data

☐ Personally identifiable information

☐ Confidential or licensed commercial data

☐ Personal financial information

☐ Indigenous participants and populations

☐ Confidential or classified information from a government agency (defence, education, criminal, etc.)

☐ Ecologically sensitive information (e.g., endangered species locations)

☐ None - I don't work with sensitive data

☐ Prefer not to answer

☐ Other: [   ]

7 *Where do you **store** your research data? Include data you're currently working on and data that you have archived for later use.* *

❶ Check all that apply
Please choose **all** that apply:

- [ ] On the internal hard drive of personally-managed desktops or laptops
- [ ] On personally-managed external storage media (including USB keys, USB hard drives, optical media, etc.)
- [ ] On computers or servers managed by a McMaster or McMaster-affiliated IT support group (Department, Faculty, CSU, RHPCS, UTS, etc.)
- [ ] McMaster-provided cloud service (e.g. MacDrive, McMaster OneDrive, OwnCloud, NextCloud, REDCap, etc.)
- [ ] External research cloud service (Compute Canada, SHARCNET, etc.)
- [ ] External cloud services (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, OSF Drive)
- [ ] Data repositories (e.g. Dataverse, Figshare)
- [ ] I don't know
- [ ] Prefer not to answer
- [ ] Other: [   ]

8

How much data storage do you estimate you use overall for your research data? *

❶ Choose one of the following answers
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ( ) Less than 1GB (Gigabyte
- ( ) 1GB < 10GB
- ( ) 10GB < 50GB
- ( ) 50GB < 500GB
- ( ) 500GB < 1TB (Terabyte)
- ( ) 1TB < 4TB
- ( ) 4TB < 500TB
- ( ) Greater than 500TB
- ( ) Not sure
- ( ) Prefer not to answer

9

How much additional data storage do you anticipate you will need over the next 5 years? *

❶ Choose one of the following answers
Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ I anticipate a reduction in my storage needs

○ I anticipate no growth

○ I anticipate some growth but am not sure how much

○ ~2x

○ ~5x

○ ~10x

○ Greater than ~10x

○ Not sure

○ Prefer not to answer

10
Are backup copies of your research data maintained separately from your primary storage?

*

❶ Choose one of the following answers
Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Yes

○ No

○ Prefer not to answer

11 Where is your data ***backed up***? A data backup is a copy of your data that is stored separately from the original. Some cloud storage providers and university provided servers have automatic backups, check with your provider if you are unsure. *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
Answer was 'Yes' at question ' [backup]' (Are backup copies of your research data maintained separately from your primary storage?)

❶ Check all that apply
Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ On the internal hard drive of personally-managed desktops or laptops

☐ On personally-managed external storage media (including USB keys, USB hard drives, optical media, etc.)

☐ On computers or servers managed by a McMaster or McMaster-affiliated IT support group (Department, Faculty, CSU, RHPCS, UTS, etc.)

☐ McMaster-provided cloud service (e.g. MacDrive, McMaster OneDrive, OwnCloud, NextCloud, REDCap, etc.)

☐ External research cloud service (Compute Canada, SHARCNET, etc.)

☐ External cloud services (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, OSF Drive)

☐ Data repositories (e.g. Dataverse, Figshare)

☐ I don't regularly back up my data

☐ I don't know

☐ Prefer not to answer

☐ Other: [_____]

12 Who performs the following data management tasks for the research projects you lead?

	Faculty member	Undergraduate Student	Graduate Student or Postdoctoral Fellow	External Partner (Industry/ community)	Research staff	Research support staff (RHPCS, Library, UTS, etc)	No one performs this task	Not applicable
Data collection & creation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data management planning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data/system security management	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data cleaning & processing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data analysis & visualization	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data storage & backup	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data organization & documentation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data archival & sharing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data management procedure & policy development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

13 How do you share your research data sets with other researchers upon publication or at the end of a project? *

❶ Check all that apply
Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Via direct sharing upon personal request only

☐ Through a personal or research group website

☐ As supplementary material files on journal websites or in their repositories

☐ Through an institutional data repository (such as McMaster Dataverse)

☐ In another general research data repository (such as Harvard Dataverse, Dryad, Figshare, OSF, OpenICPSR, FRDR, Mendeley Data, etc.)

☐ In a discipline specific research data repository such as Protein Data Bank, MorphoSource, GenBank, FLUXNET, etc.

☐ I do not share my data

☐ Prefer not to answer

☐ Other: [   ]

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14 Are there any concerns or challenges you face in sharing your data with other researchers or the public?

Please write your answer here:

[   ]

Research Data Management Needs

15

Have you accessed RDM services from McMaster before? *

❶ Check all that apply
Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Yes, from the Libraries

☐ Yes, from my Department or Faculty

☐ Yes, from RHPCS

☐ No, I haven't needed RDM support

☐ No, I was not aware these services existed.

☐ Prefer not to answer

☐ Other: [   ]

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Using the five-point scale provided, indicate your interest in accessing support for the following RDM-related activities: *

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Not at all interested	Slightly interested	Moderately interested	Very interested	Extremely interested
Creating Data Management Plans	○	○	○	○	○
Developing data management policies and procedures for your research group	○	○	○	○	○
Finding and re-using pre-existing datasets	○	○	○	○	○
Research project management	○	○	○	○	○
Data organization & documentation	○	○	○	○	○
Managing sensitive & confidential data	○	○	○	○	○
Securing your data and research systems	○	○	○	○	○
Publishing, or sharing data	○	○	○	○	○
Depositing data into appropriate disciplinary or general research data repositories (Harvard Dataverse, FRDR, Figshare, Dryad, Protein Data Bank, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○
Archiving and preserving data	○	○	○	○	○
Preparing data for reproducibility and replication	○	○	○	○	○

17

Using the five-point scale provided, indicate the value of the following modes for delivering RDM support: *

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Not at all interested	Slightly interested	Moderately interested	Very interested	Extremely interested
Online resources (informational webpages, written guides, recorded videos, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○
Online or in person public workshops and presentations	○	○	○	○	○
Customized presentation to research groups or departments	○	○	○	○	○
In-class presentations	○	○	○	○	○
Personalized consultations	○	○	○	○	○
Email/Online chat service	○	○	○	○	○
Online resources (informational webpages, written guides, recorded videos, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○

18 What are the most significant barriers you face in managing your research data? *

❶ Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Lack of resources/funding

☐ Lack of time

☐ Lack of support

☐ Lack of knowledge

☐ I do not face significant barriers managing my research data

☐ Prefer not to answer

☐ Other: [   ]

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Relating to the previous question on barriers, please elaborate on any specific RDM activities or areas where you face significant challenges.

Please write your answer here:

20

Please provide feedback you have on research data management services at McMaster. Any comments will be helpful.

Please write your answer here:

21
After you submit this page of the survey, you will be taken to a separate survey instance that will ask you whether or not you would like to have a follow up conversation with members of the Institutional Strategy Working Group. To maintain the anonymity of your responses here the results of the two surveys are not linked.

Thank you for completing the McMaster Research Data Management Needs Survey and helping to shape the future of research support at McMaster.

Survey results will be shared with the McMaster research community through the RDM Institutional Strategy Working Group homepage (https://rdm.mcmaster.ca/iswg). If you have questions about the survey or the Working Group, please reach out to rdm@mcmaster.ca (mailto:rdm@mcmaster.ca).

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Submit your survey.
Thank you for completing this survey.