Data Management Plan Expertise

Depositing data at ICPSR meets requirements of NSF-mandated data management plans (DMPs).

Many federal funding agencies — including NIH and NSF — require that grant applications contain data management plans for projects involving data collection.

Depositing data with ICPSR satisfies NSF's requirements. Additionally, we provide detailed guidance and examples for developing individual data management plans.

Our website section on Data Management & Curation provides the following information related to DMPs:

- Elements of a data management plan — including descriptions and NSF mapping
- Framework for developing a plan — an outline used in assembling DMPs to accompany grant applications, with helpful examples
- Sample plan — provided to assist grant applicants in creating their DMPs

- Webinar — outlines recommendations for creating DMPs
- Frequently Asked Questions — along with detailed answers
- Links — to other valuable resources and a bibliography of key readings

Promoting an Ethos of Data Sharing

"Research cannot flourish if data are not preserved and made accessible ... a research project's success is measured not just by the publications it produces, but also by the data it makes available to the wider community."

— "Data's shameful neglect," Nature, Vol. 461, Sept. 10, 2009

Membership

Our growing membership encompasses about 750 educational and research institutions around the world. Members include universities and colleges, national data archives, statistical and research agencies, government departments, and nonprofit organizations.

Individuals affiliated with member institutions have direct, free access to ICPSR's data archive of over 9,300 studies. They also get powerful search tools, user support, and instructional resources. Researchers can use ICPSR's services to ensure long-term data preservation as well as fulfill funder requirements for data management plans (DMP).

Membership is available to all institutions. University fees are based on Carnegie classification. Associate memberships are available for nonacademic organizations.

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Benefits of Sharing and Archiving Data

Archiving Data at ICPSR Ensures Access Now and for the Future

ICPSR has a 50-year track record of preserving and sharing social and behavioral science research data.
We follow prevailing preservation standards to ensure long-term access to data resources.

Data Curation
Data at ICSPR are enhanced with meaningful information to make them complete, self-explanatory, and usable by future researchers. As a repository, ICPSR adheres to robust standards that demonstrate it is organizationally, procedurally, and technologically sound as a trustworthy data custodian.

Long-Term Preservation
Digital preservation is the proactive and ongoing management of digital content to lengthen its lifespan and mitigate against loss. ICPSR preserves its data resources for the long term, guarding against deterioration, accidental loss, and digital obsolescence. Our half-century track record of storing research data reliably demonstrates our commitment to long-term preservation.

Maximized Access
ICPSR hosts data in a repository with powerful search capabilities. Indexed by all the major search engines, ICPSR data are easily discoverable and widely accessible to the public.

Protection of Confidentiality
Data deposited with ICPSR are modified to address confidentiality and privacy concerns whenever possible in order to create public-use datasets. Stringent protections are in place for securing and distributing sensitive data.

Data Attribution
By providing standardized and well-recognized data citations, ICPSR facilitates the attribution of credit to data producers for their archived data. ICPSR also collects bibliographic citations of publications that are based on archived data, demonstrating the impact of the original data and increasing the visibility of the investigators.

Usage Information
ICPSR provides access to reports on how many times our datasets are downloaded and the academic status — such as graduate student, faculty member, etc. — and institutional affiliation of users who download data. These reports help researchers and funders better understand the effect of archiving their data.

User Support
ICPSR staff members are available to answer questions about downloading and using data, which frees the original research team from having to handle this task.

www.icpsr.umich.edu

Data Sharing: Increasing the Impact of Your Research

In a November 2010 paper, ICPSR researchers found that the sharing of research data translates to greater productivity:

"We find strong and consistent evidence that data sharing, both formal and informal, increases research productivity across a wide range of publication metrics. Data archiving, in particular, yields the greatest returns on investment with research productivity (number of publications) being greater when data are archived. Not sharing data, either formally or informally, limits severely the number of publications tied to research data."

— Amy Pienta, George Alter, Jared Lyle

The Enduring Value of Social Science Research: The Use and Reuse of Primary Research Data

http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/78307