



# **NSF DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN — IMPLICATIONS FOR LIBRARIANS**

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# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- **Open data:** growing governmental interest in making publicly-funded research more transparent and more available (NIH, NSF)
- **Broader critical review:** greater interest evaluating original research data (Nature)
- **Technological advances:** sharing of research results easier and faster (Repositories, Web 2.0)
- **Reuse/preservation of research data:** increased consideration of the cost and value of research data and need to ensure its longevity

# “SCIENTISTS SEEKING NSF FUNDING WILL SOON BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT DATA MANAGEMENT PLANS”

*Press Release 10-077, May 5, 2010*

## **Current Policy:**

- “To advance science by *encouraging* data sharing among researchers”
- Data obtained with federal funds be accessible to the general public
- Grantees must develop and submit specific plans to share materials collected with NSF support, except where this is inappropriate or impossible

## **On or around October 2010:**

- All new NSF proposals will be required to include a data management plan in the form of a 2 pg supplementary document (peer reviewed)
- New policy is meant to be a 1<sup>st</sup> step toward a more comprehensive approach to data management
- Exact requirements vague

# THE CHALLENGE FOR INSTITUTIONS

## **Data is expensive**

- Time, instrumentation, inability to reproduce

## **Increasing regulation**

- Granting agencies and journals require submission

## **Inadequate training**

- No formal data management curriculum

## **Preservation is not a priority**

- For most researchers, preservation takes time away from the work that is rewarded (publication, teaching)

# OUR SOLUTION

## **Librarians as partners**

- Consult with and advise researchers
- Provide leadership to the institution
- Work with existing data organizations

## **In order to succeed, librarians need to:**

- Build and develop specific expertise
- Facilitate communication

# WHY THE LIBRARY?

- **Neutral:** works across the entire institution
- **Strong in relationship building:** has experience fostering discussion and relationships, and cultivates an existing support network
- **Intellectual Property experts:** has dealt with copyright, can translate to data
- **Service-oriented:** uniquely positioned as an intellectual service unit within the institution

# NSF DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

- Now effective January 18, 2011
- Some earlier proposals also require DMPs (even some in early December)
- Broad guidelines, but directorates may have specific guidelines for their community
- Uploaded as 2-page supplemental document in FastLane (with specific format requirements)
- Formally peer-reviewed, and will require status updates in all progress reports

# UVA SCIDAC NSF DMP RESPONSE

## UVa Library's Original Request

- Develop boilerplate for researchers to use in proposals

## SciDaC Group's Response

- No boilerplate, successful proposals need customized plans
- Our approach involves:
  - Knowledge across many communities (“translational” opportunities)
  - Leadership on policy/infrastructure development
  - Development of a template that simplifies writing the plan

## Principles

- Must be easy for researcher
- Must be supportable by available UVA resources/infrastructure
- Must be able to be followed-through on if grant is awarded



# ONGOING ISSUES

- **Training:** how do you train librarians to meet these new needs?
- **Buy-in:** how do you get effective buy-in from people around the institution?
- **Scalability:** how do you scale this to support all of the researchers who need support?

# TRAINING LIBRARIANS

## UVa Library Staff Model

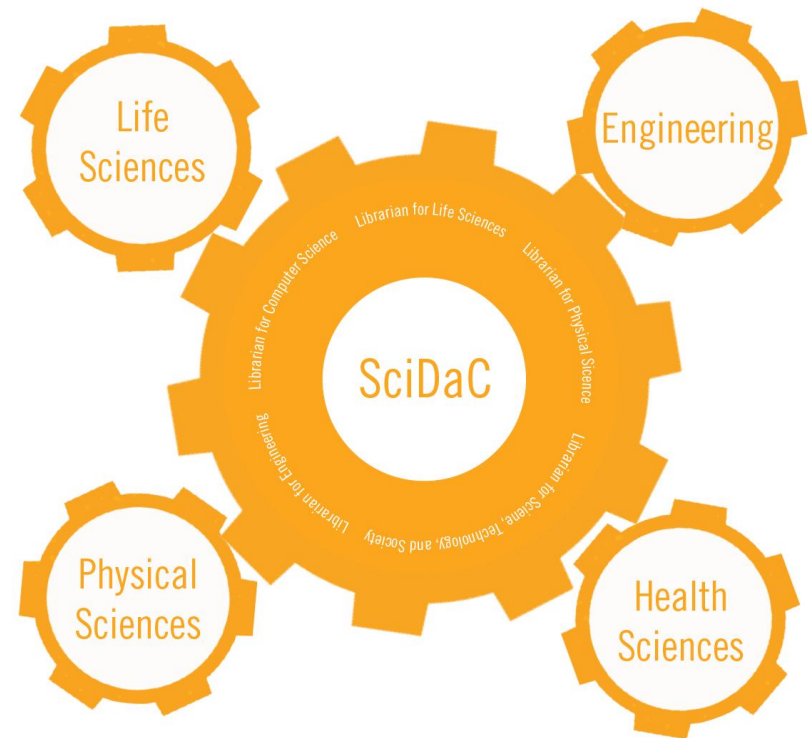
- Scientific Data Consultants
- Subject Librarians

## Current Training Model

- Brown Bag Data Curation Discussions
- Data Interviews

## Goals and Objectives

- Build Data Literacy
- Create Collaborative Opportunities
- Establish the Library for Data Preservation



# BUY-IN BY THE INSTITUTION

- **Regulations are helpful**
- **Partnerships between key areas:**
  - University libraries (UL)
  - Central IT (CIO)
  - Research Office (VP for Research)
  - Sponsored Programs/Research
- **Strategic investment:** take ownership, allocate resources, and demonstrate capability

# SCALING UP TO MEET DEMAND

- **Time:** NSF research support alone is going to be very time consuming (UVA had about 140 proposals over the past year, 44 in November alone)
- **Funding:** work with leaders to find money
  - Redirection/reallocation of grant overhead dollars
  - Write-in of library staff on grants
- **Strategy:** decide how to invest
  - How might units be reorganized?
  - How could staff resources and expertise be refocused?
  - What external partnerships would add value?

## TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION...

- Lots of conference activity
- ARL Data Listserv  
(<http://www.arl.org/rtl/eresearch/escien/nsf/index.shtml>)
- JISC Dataman Listserv  
(<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=RESEARCH-DATAMAN>)
- UIUC Summer Institute on Data Curation

# WRAP-UP

- Libraries are well-positioned to play a vital role in research data support
- NSF DMP Mandate is a call to action

# QUESTIONS?

- Please feel free to contact me with questions at [als9q@virginia.edu](mailto:als9q@virginia.edu) or 434-243-2180.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/TOPICS

- Training/retooling
- Organizational buy-in
- Scalability and sustainability
- Funding opportunities