EMORY
LIBRARIES &
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Research Dataset Acquisitions Policy

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Purpose

To clarify the process for the acquisition of research data, provide guidelines for the acquisition of said data, and outline some general principles for the use of library funds in the acquisition of said data.

Challenges w/Datasets (just to name a few) for Collection Development

- Where/how to host?
- Metadata and codebooks
- Text mining requests or actual data?
- Updates and Revisions to dataset
- Licenses (multiple users? Mediated access? etc).
- Use and reuse of data (particularly w/journal policies)
- Preservation

Basic Principles

- Dataset should be available/accessible by users across campus
- Preference for larger data sources with multiple/customizable datasets (e.g. Datastream)
- Easily supported by existing software in library
- Encouragement of shared cost with departments/schools

Basic Principles (Continued)

- Data should not have to be "returned" or destroyed by institution
- Terms of use in regards to the sharing of data with other researchers, and/or in compliance with journal submission requirements should be clarified
- Terms of use regarding confidentiality agreements must be considered as well
- Adequate metadata (codebook at a minimum)

Principal Players (at Emory)

SLs field requests and gather necessary information (price, vendor, justification of need, nature of access, supported formats)

- Data librarian offers assistance to SLs on requests
- Research data requests should go through collection management/tech services e-resources group for approval*
- ECR will negotiate all research data licenses

Policy Distribution

Addendum to Licensing Checklist (by Lisa Macklin)
Policy and Guidelines disseminated via CM web:
http://guides.main.library.emory.edu/collection_management/policies

Recent Dataset Purchases

- RealtyTrac
- David Leip's Election Atlas Data
- PRS Risk Data
- Consensus Economic Forecasts
- Catalyst Data