



Adapting data management tools for data support at social distance



VCU Libraries

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Obligatory intro

- ❖ She or They pronouns
- ❖ 20+ years 😊 academic libs; 3 years in data
- ❖ (solo) Research Data Librarian

- VCU in Richmond, VA
 - On the lands of the Monacan peoples and Powhatan Confederacy
 - R1/very high research
 - Urban PWI with hospital
 - an ARL system
 - 30,000ish FTE students



A long time ago...

in March,
2020

Twelveteen-thousand and eleventy days in the past

suddenly research is socially distant



[Image description: VCU desks without workers at them]



[Image description: Wet bench with equipment ready but no one sitting at it]

An elderly couple is shown from the waist up, standing next to the open trunk of a light blue car. The man, on the left, wears a grey flat cap, glasses, a brown jacket over a plaid shirt, and tan trousers. He is holding a large, light-colored wicker picnic basket. The woman, on the right, has short white hair and is wearing a brown jacket over a dark top and a striped shawl. She is laughing and has her arm around the man's shoulder. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and a wooden post. A white text box with orange text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Work from home?

Image used by CC-BY license from Noun Project

[Image description: Two people loading a tidy trunk with a covered basket and laughing. It looks organized and fun]

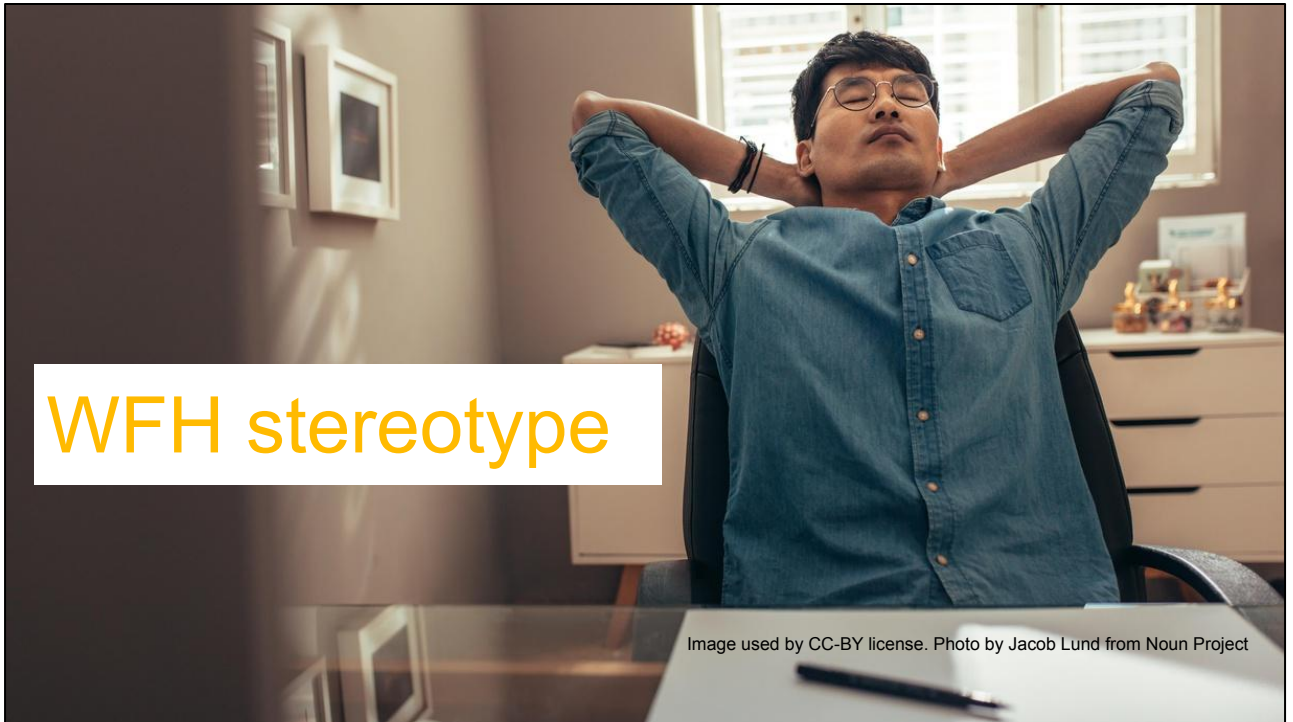
Reality

(but using old conference bags)



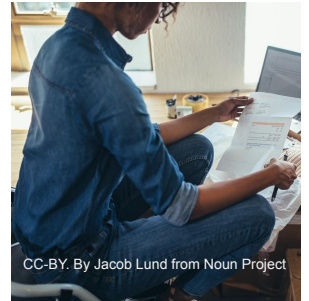
Photo from <https://www.yummymummyclub.ca/>

[Image description: Messy trunk crammed with bags full of stuff]



[Image description: a researcher with eyes closed, leaning back to relax and think, with paper and pen in front of him]

More like...



[Images description: a collage of empty research benches, separated people thinking, and icon images of frustration]

Some deeply overworked...

...others unable to do work

And so much
uncertainty about
how to prepare for
the future.



What is data management?

A love letter to your future self!

1. Look back at protocols

Data ethics protocols are always in force.

PERIOD, FULL STOP.

Even “closed” protocols, or “exempt” human subjects data. So it’s a good time to check back.

Catalog / Services / VCU Google Hangout chat - Transmission

VCU Google Hangout chat - Transmission (Detail)

Service Category

Transmission

Description

The VCU Google Hangout chat and video chat app is a part of the University Google GSuite offering. This chat client allows University personnel to quickly communicate with each via text or video chat in real time. This chat service can be used to communicate non-sensitive and most sensitive (Category III and Category II) University information, but should not be used to communicate confidential and regulated (Category I) information.

Applicable Policies

VCU Information Security Policy

2. Check tech stack

We're lucky.
VCU TS Security has a great data management lookup system for tech options at different levels of sensitivity.

Key

✔ Item is allowed.

⚠ Item will need approval by appropriate governance group.

❌ Item is not allowed.

Guide: Use the Data Management System Guide to select multiple data types and quickly see which services are available for use.

Data Type Selection Guide

⚠ PII of Children Under 13

⚠ PPRA regulated information

⚠ FISMA Low

⚠ Driver's License or State Issued ID

⚠ Criminal Justice Information

❌ Credit / Debit Card info

❌ Financial Aid information

❌ Health Related Information - Protected (HIPAA)

❌ Identifiable genetic information

❌ FISMA Mod

[Background image description: Screenshot of VCU data security classifications and the data transmission security levels for Google Chat]

3. Run your backups!!!

**Make sure there are still...
3 copies
on 2 different media
with 1 at a different site**



The definition of site has changed!

[Background image description: hard drive with arrows in and out]

4. Make a data inventory

README files, file inventories, and other lists are boring and time consuming.

But they serve as great checklists to confirm dataset integrity in multi-file projects!

inventory (cont)

Name of project arm or specific aim

- Lead PI of lab
- Arm or aim coordinator, if different
- Relevant PIDs: FunderID, GrantID, ROR, team ORCIDs
- License(s)
- Citations and DUA of external data, if any



inventory (cont)

Filename	Author	Data description	Collected YYYY MMDD	Updated YYYY MMDD	File type or software to open	RRID ¹ or other resource info	Data security level
foo.gpr							
bar.csv							
baz.xlsx							

¹ If you're not familiar with **RRIDs**, visit <https://scicrunch.org/> to learn about this PID and its role in authentication reports to improve reproducibility.


inventory (cont)

Filename	Author	Data description	Collected YYYY MMDD	Updated YYYY MMDD	File type or software to open	RRID ¹ or other resource info	Data security level	Raw data backup location	Transformation backup locations	Working file location
foo.gpr										
bar.csv										
baz.xlsx										

¹ If you're not familiar with **RRIDs**, visit <https://scicrunch.org/> to learn about this PID and its role in

Brainstorming tools, workflows

Depending on security, tools consult on...

- Automatic versioning in Drive, Onedrive, Box, Dropbox, etc
 - Or manual versioning on local server
- Electronic lab notebooks
- Open Science Framework 
- Onenote, Evernote, etc.

Training and workshops for staff

Were/are you offering basic data management to staff? Especially...

- Research administrators
- Project managers and coordinators
- Clinical RAs and RCs
- Lab managers

Consider your audiences

Most faculty and students are overworked. But...

- Undergraduate researchers?
- Postdocs?
- NIH training grants?
 - looking for reproducibility partners to buff up their rigor and reproducibility offerings?
- NSF-funded units
 - New biosketch training? ORCIDs?



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or join my breakout for Q&A

Please feel free to contact me at nexner@vcu.edu