

Developing a Data Management Guide for Researchers

John Borghi and John Choacki
California Digital Library, United States

Researchers are faced a wide variety of expectations about how they should manage and share their data. These expectations arise from a number of sources including funding agencies, scholarly publishers, and the research community itself. Complicating matters further is the fact that researchers and data service providers (in academic libraries and elsewhere) often think and talk about data in significantly different ways. Our data management guide for researchers is intended to help bridge this communication gap. At present, our guide consists of a rubric that describes activities related to data management, sharing, and curation using terminology familiar to researchers and a series of one page documents which give concrete information about how to comply with data-related requirements and ensure that data-related activities are documented, communicated, and forward thinking. By giving researchers both a tool for self assessment and the means to access expert knowledge, our guide is intended to remove confusion and grow confidence. The framework of our guide is also intended to be dynamic and flexible, adaptable for use by researchers and data service providers in a variety of disciplinary and institutional contexts.