Research Data Management Strategy Committee Annual Report 2023

The U of M RDM Institutional Strategy was published in February of 2023, ahead of the March 2023 deadline from the Tri-Agencies of Canada. Since publishing, the group has begun to move forward with our intended actions to further support RDM locally.

Below you will find reports on all five working groups identified in the original document. Additionally, the RDM Steering Group meets quarterly and guides the work of those groups.

Comprehensive outreach plan
- Outreach team: Jordan Bass (Libraries), Jackie Cooney-Birch (ORS), Huy Tran (IST), Janet Rothney (Libraries)
- As an initial outreach offering, we have put together an outreach roadshow: a brief introduction to the RDM Institutional Strategy and plans for implementation / next steps, offered to all departments and faculties at their convenience.
    o Presentations held: ADR-RLO's (May), Faculty of Agriculture (Oct), Digital Strategy Committee: Research Sub-Committee (Nov).
    o Presentations booked: Libraries (April 2024)

Collaborative RDM support services
- To begin this work, we have embarked on a shared research study with the non-profit group Ithaka S+R, titled: Research Data Services Assessment (Building Campus Strategies for Coordinated Data Support)
- Team members: Wei Xuan, Jordan Bass, Janet Rothney, Jackie Cooney-Birch, Huy Tran, Dawn Sutherland
- To date, we have completed a data services inventory and a suite of interviews with researchers.
- The research project continues into 2024-25, and from here we hope to further define RDM services for UManitoba.
- Key findings from Ithaka Phase 1: Inventory of research data support services
    o General research data services are the most common type offered regardless of institution type. Statistical services, geospatial services, and visualization services are also common at research universities,
    o Libraries remain the largest provider of research data services, but IT and units associated with the research office play important collaborative roles, especially with specialized services.
    o Consulting services are the most common mode of service provision, comprising almost three quarters of all data services.
    o Libraries are central players in the research data services infrastructure, offering a large and diverse range of services on campuses.
    o Libraries are central players in the research data services infrastructure, offering a large and diverse range of services on campuses. In our sample of US research institutions, libraries are responsible for approximately 40 to 45 percent of all

research data services offered by the institution. Liberal arts colleges and Canadian universities exhibit an even higher reliance on library services, with libraries providing approximately 60 percent of overall services we found in both samples.

- o IT services only account for between 8 to 15 percent of research data services. However, IT services are more important to the research data services ecosystem than their modest numbers might suggest, especially at research universities. IT is a key collaborator with the library and the office of research.
- o Research offices offer approximately one quarter of all research data services at US and Canadian institutions.
- o Highlighting where services are concentrated can guide stakeholders to identify priority areas on their campuses and to find potential cross-campus and cross-institutional collaboration.
- o Better coordination between service-providing units is an important step in creating an infrastructure that can provide appropriate levels of consulting support while staying within the institutional budget.
- o Consistency and clarity in how services are communicated to researchers is just as vital to provisioning an effective research data services infrastructure as cross-unit coordination and cross-campus collaboration.
- o Full published report: https://doi.org/10.18665/sr.320420

Interdepartmental collaboration on RDM policies and procedures
- Team members: Janet Rothney (co-chair), Karen Schwartz (co-chair), Lynne Hiebert, Randy Jamieson, Rachelle Ross, Jackie Cooney-Birch
- This group intends to review guidance documentation, policies and/or procedures that have RDM implications, with the aim of reducing duplicate work and conflicting guidance.
- To date, we have met once to discuss our goals, and have meetings booked into 2024 to begin the review process.
- Additionally, we are looking to add one more member to the team, who can review materials with an Indigenous perspective.

Stakeholder conversations
- A sub-group of the Steering Commitee is working in this area. Report to follow.

Harmonizing RDM with health research in MB
- Due to internal changes within the health REB and other research-administration updates that are currently in process, we will wait to undertake work in this arena.
- We anticipate beginning work with the health researchers in the near future.