

CaRCC Researcher-Facing Call, 2022-04-14

Supporting Research Data Management

Research data management is growing more complex for our faculty, staff and graduate students given increasing data and security concerns. To accommodate these changes and more, we are all making investments in cyberinfrastructure to support fluctuations within the research data lifecycle. How effective are we at meeting the needs of the research community doing science? In April, the Researcher-Facing track will host a facilitated conversation on research data management to explore the successes and challenges at your institutions. Join us for this discussion to share lessons learned and to promote best practices.

Speaker Information: Amy Neeser and Erin Foster from UC Berkeley, Research IT. The community discussion will be facilitated by the R-F Steering Committee.

Please Note:

- *We will record this call and post shortly thereafter on CaRCC's YouTube channel.*
- *We expect all persons on the call to adhere to [CaRCC's Code of Conduct](#).*

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Connection Details

<https://utah.zoom.us/my/carcc?pwd=TjFuR3VVM2d5eE5zWnEvWWxDTFBCUT09>

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Agenda

- Welcome + Introduction to CaRCC
 - [Researcher-Facing Track description](#)
 - CaRCC is your community for research computing and data professionals. Please see [this brief overview](#) (our OneSlide); more information on activities on [our Groups web pages](#).
 - If you have questions about CaRCC or are interested in becoming more involved, please contact:
 - rf-coordinators@carcc.org for R-F-related activities, or
 - getstarted@carcc.org or getinvolved@carcc.org for other CaRCC work
 - We expect all persons on the call to adhere to [CaRCC's Code of Conduct](#).
- Topic of the month:
 - Presenters: **Amy Neeser and Erin Foster from UC Berkeley, Research IT.**
 - [Introduction to Research Data Management](#)
 - Groups discussions
 - Conversations facilitated R-F Steering Committee members
To discuss success and challenges in the RDM space
 - 1) What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?
 - 2) What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?
 - 3) How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?
- Open Discussion
- Announcements
 - Emerging Centers, Wed 4/20
 - Systems Facing call, Thu 4/21
 - Educause RCD call, Thu 4/28
 - PEARC22 in Boston:
 - Fri 4/29, Panel Submissions & Birds of a Feather Submissions

Sign-In (Name / Affiliation /Email)

Note: please follow the suggested sign-in format so our evolving data science intelligence routines won't trip up and forget to enter you in our \$1m sweepstakes.

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Max attendee count 104

Notes from the call :

Slides: [Introduction to Research Data Management](#)

Notes

Below is a summary of the seven breakout rooms, organized by the three discussion questions. To look at the specific breakout room notes use the outline links to the left to navigate pages 8-19 of this document.

1. What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?

Cyberinfrastructure

- Data storage
 - Free basic storage per researcher/research group
 - Charging per tb/year for storage above that
 - Group storage, especially for restricted data
- Data repositories
- Cloud storage (discounts)
- Globus for data transfer

Staff

- Dedicated with diverse expertise (data curation, high risk data, data sharing, data science, various disciplines)
- Service mindset
- **Providing Training**
- Consulting with researchers
 - Topic based
 - Concierge service from design to publication
 - Integrating data topics into compute consultations
- Communication/Collaboration
 - **among service providers**
 - Bite sized communications

Big picture

- Using Benchmarking/Assessments/Maturity models/capability models

- Leadership seeing value in RDM
- Stakeholder engagement

2. What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?

Cyberinfrastructure

- Rollback of unlimited data storage agreements
- Cost of data storage
- Archiving data
- Data Backup
- Providing/restricting Access
 - Regulated data
 - External collaborators (Affiliate identities)
- Data transfer
 - Large scale external data transfers
- Integrating technologies
- Supporting many different disciplines with the same infrastructure
- Balancing distributed vs. centralized services
- Duplication of large data sets vs. who owns and manages a centralized copy
- Charging for services
- Lots of resources - lack of guidance

Training

- Explaining storage tiers to researchers
- “Modest data” - researchers outgrowing old data workflows

Staff

- Staff turnover
- Capacity vs. capability
 - Lack of staff

Big picture

- Lack of Institutional support/buyin for RDM
- Lack of understanding of leadership
 - Increasing scale/scope of research data
 - Cost
 - Funder requirements
 - Edge cases
- Changes in leadership
- Lack of coordination

- With research administration
- Working across the entire data lifecycle/ecosystem
- Navigating researchers among RDM silos
- Institutional requirements
 - Compliance with data classification policies
 - Data stewardship: who owns the data? What happens when people leave the institution
- Funder requirements
 - Disconnect between service funding models and research grants
 - NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan +1+1
 - Keeping data for reproducibility
- Communication
 - Speaking the same language across groups
 - Interjecting the researcher perspective into infrastructure/policy decisions
- Openness vs privacy/security
- Research culture
 - Have and have nots among disciplines

3. How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?

- Committees/working groups/steering committees/task forces/partnerships
- Creating data program/needs framework
- Research data policies
- Coordinated trainings
- Purge policies
- Newsletters/email/websites with guidance
- Centralized coordination
 - Office of research
 - Central IT
 - Libraries
 - Privacy office engages research projects early

BreakOut Room Notes

Room 1

Katia Bulekova, Boston University
Claire Mizumoto, U California San Diego
Brett Milash, U Utah
Anita Orendt, U Utah
Matthew Keeler, U Missouri
Ashley Stauffer, Penn state
Andrea Denton, Univ Virginia Health System
Katie Pierce, Network of National Library of Medicine Region 3
Jessica Pierce, Harvard Medical School
Sarah Stevens, U Wisconsin-Madison
Julia Goldman, Harvard Library / Harvard Medical School
Vessela Ensberg, UC Davis

1) What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?

Brett: Object storage,

Anita : Adding to Brett, group spaces (and project spaces for Restricted Data)

Andrea: strong expertise and service ethic within individual units

Ashley Stauffer: Key stakeholder groups are connected and agree that we need to do better

Claire: we definitely have advocates for data management to help move forward issues around data management and provide resources

Vessela: Final data sharing through existing repositories; Training

Julie: Expertise and services across individual service units; Training; Communication between (most) stakeholders

2) What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?

Brett: Dealing with changes of policies of Google

Matthew Keeler: Working not only with HPC. Discussions with researchers always starts with “where do I store stuff?” **Need the whole data ecosystem to support the research,** even before research starts. We are beginning our path on how to support the research.

Anita: struggling with the central research support understanding scale of research data, along with the cost, funding agency requirements

Andrea: identifying the support units and stakeholders and creating a unified response. Especially around the new NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan.

Ashley Stauffer: So. many. Agree that Executive Leadership and central IT understanding of what research data is, how it varies, and edge cases. We also have some struggles with sponsored research intake processes (no one standard process) and when an award is funded, spinning up the tech environment and then also connecting with folks to the libraries for data management plans. Right now we do not have a holistic ecosystem with transparent touchpoints for researchers to navigate effectively.

Claire: The sheer expanse of data; the different needs of different disciplines; data storage: project storage, archival data storage; big data: moving, back-up, access; regulated data

Vessela: figuring out what the right balance between a distributed network of service providers and a more centralized service is

Katia: How to avoid duplicated large datasets? Where should they be stored? Who should manage/curate/update them?

Julie: Institutional buy-in; Decentralized & distributed institutional environment; offering data services across schools and disciplines; separate systems for data services (safety, IRB, DMP)

3) How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?

Ashley Stauffer: Advisory Committees, Working Groups, Steering Committees, Task Forces. We have work to do in this space for better coordination. Working on developing a data program and a data needs framework. Also working on a Research Data Policy for when data needs to be sequestered during compliance audits

Claire: Partnerships with data management support folks such as the library, data science institute, informatics, etc. We definitely need to coordinate better and support researchers with the growing emphasis on the data side of research (perhaps instead of compute or at least alongside compute

Julie: Working Groups; Steering Committees; Coordinated RDM Training

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Room 2

1) What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?

- Under CIO office, with imperative to be all on cloud. Moving to entertain some other services, e.g., AWS, Glacier
- Storing cold data: inappropriate to hold on campus, going toward cold storage in the cloud. It's useful to engage with researchers around what the various tiers of storage and what those mean in terms of cost.
- 5TB of storage/researcher via OneDrive. Work w researchers to create sharing hierarchies w/in folder structure. For teams do microsoft teams w 25TB storage. Have discounts w cloud services (11-12%), e.g. AWS, Azure. Facilitate setup at no cost to researcher
- National shared HPC center is primarily on prem. If paid to deploy storage as part of a project, will do that thing, conforming to the sponsor's policies.
- Libraries has created a dedicated group to help users at all the different levels.
- Leveraged the [RCD CM](#) to prepare the case to leadership about RDM needs (among other areas).
- Other such assessments are out there as well.
 - [FAIR data](#) (alt [link](#)),
 - [RDM](#), (research data management)
 - [restricted data](#), &
 - [the one from CaRCC](#) &
 - [cessda](#) &
 - [RISE](#) &
 - [CyberSecurity \(CMMC\)](#) (current: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/29/2020-21123/defense-federal-acquisition-regulation-supplement-assessing-contractor-implementation-of> , Is being updated/simplified to CMMC 2.0, announced 4Nov2021)
- Doing a charge model of \$x/tb/year, which contributes to sustainability of the array
- Using globus: helps w transfers, but not necessarily multi-institutional access
- Affiliate identities for collaborators: expensive in a process sense.

2) What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?

- Identifying truly cold storage use-cases.
- Getting researchers to understand tiers of cold storage.
- NIH data management and sharing policy
- Help researchers from other institutions import and use data at our center
- Serving researchers with large data that don't have the funding to support its storage

- Service funding models that don't match researcher funding models

3) How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?

- Downside of project based storage is persistence once the project ends.

Room 3:Tobin, Glen, Mike, Daniel, Paul, Ethan, Gladys, Sheena, Alex

1) What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?

Library handles a lot of requests that researchers have to make data available. Library has done a good job of the curation of data.

Interface for moving data among institutions is well respected.

<https://www2.cisl.ucar.edu/computing-data/data/research-data-archive>

<https://www2.cisl.ucar.edu/computing-data/computing>

Hiring more people to support this work. Being collaborative and working with colleagues that aren't specifically in this space is working well.

Lots of resources, but not necessarily knowing what is the best solution.

Newsletter called the Data Nudge that does a really good job of giving bite sized information that is easy to digest. <https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/1922790509.html>

Wanting to create a centralized place for managing your data.

High Risk Data Liaison program, connecting researchers to IT Pros/ faculty that are experts in sensitive and high risk data management.

2) What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?

Communication.

Access to data after publication.

Being asked to store data for the sake of reproducibility.

How to go about disposing of data. Not having a second place to store the data.

No money for more data storage. \$\$\$:(

Some institutions do not have structured RDM.

3) How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?

Privacy Office reaches out early on in research projects, coordinated by the IRB, to infuse Privacy by Design principles in the project from the beginning.

UGA has a purge policy. PIs can ask for more space.

Newsletters/ email communications/ websites with guidances

Room 4

Facilitator: Calvin Cox

Notetaker: Erin Foster

Report out: Phillip Tarrant

1) What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?

- Bring data mgmt questions specific to how they are working with their data (compute space needs, etc.) when meeting with computing consultants
- Come to consulting early on so you are able to troubleshoot upfront (need to split up data to process, etc.)
- Leadership seeing value in RDM as an area of support; in working with Library have a shared roadmap and engage annually on what to focus on; RACI chart as a way to determine who is the “lead” on taking on a given area
- Partnerships, communication -- meeting more frequently and often (in some part due to Zoom); having frequent engagement has helped improve relationships and address what researchers need; better able to direct folks to who can provide assistance
- Formation of data science institute in library -- having a hub for that, discipline agnostic, helps with coordination efforts as well as given people a space where they can go to
- Concierge service to facilitate the research process/study (from grant writing to paper/output publication)
- Relationship between central IT and research computing

2) What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?

- Siloing across disciplines, departments at institutions; offering similar services across different areas
- Not having a central space that offers RDM support
- Dealing with cases with researchers needs support across multiple service providers
- In the case of fee for service offerings, differences in “charges” for services
- Defining language/terms that are used across groups (RDM in sense of what that means to different units)
- Capacity vs capability
- Not directly managing the systems/infrastructure that we consult on; policies that are developed; getting research as a use case into discussions in both areas
- Expertise “pocketed” on campus (e.g., cloud); need a wide range of expertise when it comes to fully implementing solutions/services but often only getting percentages (if that)
- \$\$\$\$:)
- There are still haves and have-nots when it comes to the campus (UCLA) directing resources/expertise to disciplines traditionally known to be data-intensive (and also those that win big grants) over those that are emergent in data needs and/or don’t win

sizeable grants. Which only exacerbates the “behindness” that ensues in those emergent disciplines.

- Corollary: The workflows and platforms designed for data management are shaped by/designed for the primary users, which tend to exclude some of the unique needs of emergent data users. Another vicious cycle...

3) How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?

Room 5

AdamR, BobF, AmyN, TimN, RamazanA, MarkP, JimL, PaulaS, MazeN, JacalynH, JoshuaG

1) What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?

- Some training via Carpentries
 - Libraries often host
- Library provide much on data handling and sharing via orientations
- Some training as a part of intro to HPC resources
- Compliance training for grad students
- Possibly coupled to some Internal Review Board training (eg. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) certification)

2) What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?

- Training
- Storage, particularly with model data
- Backups
- NIH data sharing mandate
- Knowledge and compliance with IRB and DUA policies
 - Stanford uses 3-tier system for data classification
- Lack of clear or any for data policy
- Access, where lack of access necessitates duplication of resources

3) How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?

- Workshops coordinated via Libraries
- HU-wide RDM support group, which participants from each school, VPR, & sponsored research
- Liaison between library and
- Automated process for increased storage allocations (10% at 90% full; with 100 GB threshold that starts human conversations)

Room 6

1) What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?

- Multiple nature of clusters proj+scratch, Globus
- Good handle on CUI data

2) What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?

- Expectations vs price
- Dropbox is on demand, but integration is not easy
- Data life cycle/retention, especially when PIs leave
- Funding – very little for the institution
- Regulated research data
- Instruments that are not integrated into the storage model
- Budget available but not the man power for Archive service
- Large scale external data transfers

3) How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?

- VPR's office
- Central IT
- eScience Institute (data science / data intensive research)
- Taskforce to coordinate activities between different groups
- Library-led general office to coordinate efforts

Room 7-

1) What is working well at your institution in the RDM space?

- “Modest data” – not big data. Researchers using petabyte-sized datasets are self-supporting
- We have a lot of resources on our campus - a lot of people interested in this topic and developing field-specific guidance
- Good coordination with our IT support at our campus. Drop-in sessions with subject matter experts (researchers, librarians, IT experts) are well attended. Good to have people at the same time in the same room talking about different parts of the RDM lifecycle.
- RDM taught by librarian in a web archive training program on campus coordinated by VPR
- Partnership with research IT for training researchers on data storage, planning data visualization space within the library, joining OSF for Institutions.

2) What are some roadblocks or challenges you face?

- Not much coordination between different supporting units on campus
- Changes in administration – at the library level and at the VPR level. Everything starts over with new leadership.
- Staff turnover
- Data storage solutions - affordable data storage space, sometimes it's proprietary to a specific department, only available at large scale.
- Archiving sensitive research data
- Conflict between “open data” movements and restrictions around sensitive data
- Change in research culture needed (per AAU/APLU report) - <https://www.aplu.org/library/guide-to-accelerate-access-to-public-data/file>
-

3) How do you coordinate efforts at your institution across the research data lifecycle?

- At McGill, we set up Digital Research Services Hub (www.mcgill.ca/drs) to coordinate efforts in anything related to digital research, such as RDM, research software, advanced research computing, to loop in IT, Ethics, VP Research, Sponsor research, etc.

Non-break-out-room comments:

- Dreaming of a set of awareness-raising mini-posters (that I don't have to create) to help demystify the RDM process & begin the slow process of normalizing vocabulary use.
- The Google-throttling of space is yet another opportunity for grabbing attention on the need for file / research lifecycle management processes.
- Find campus allies among your local members of the variety of data management professional organizations (e.g. <https://IASSISTdata.org> , <https://codata.org> , <https://www.rd-alliance.org/>, <https://rdapassociation.org/>)

Chat Comments

- Useful framework! <https://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu/about-rdmwg>

Plan
Collect
Analyze
Store
Evaluate
Share
Access

Breakout room 7 notes

Tess (UMass Med) - have a lot of resources

Biru (McGill) - drop in sessions for researchers that involve multiple orgs/providers in the institution

Daureen - worked with VPR, they teach classes about grant related items incl. data research management, lab archives

Stacy - work well with RC - data storage, visualization,

Daureen - roadblocks - change of administration and changes associated with that (Biru seconds, Tess - also staff turnover)

Cyd - struggle data storage solutions

Biru - 25 TB stand offering of institutional provided storage (MS Teams, SharePoints) with possibility of on premises storage, some struggle with computing capacity with sensitive data and long-term sensitive data preservation