

The Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy implementation

University of Saskatchewan

November 2022

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Tri-agency RDM policy launched in March 2021

Tri-Agency Research Data Management

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Research Data Management

- Tri-Agency Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management
- Open Letter
- Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy**
- Public Consultation Summary
- Frequently Asked Questions

Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy

1. Preamble

The [Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\)](#), the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada \(NSERC\)](#), and the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \(SSHRC\)](#) (the agencies) are federal granting agencies that promote and support research, research training, knowledge transfer and innovation within Canada.

The agencies expect the research they fund to be conducted to the highest professional and disciplinary standards, domestically and internationally. These standards support research excellence by ensuring that research is performed ethically and makes good use of public funds, experiments and studies are replicable, and research results are as accessible as possible. Research data management (RDM) is a necessary part of research excellence.

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Tri-Agency RDM Policy requirements



Institutional strategies

Each post-secondary institution and research hospital eligible to administer CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC funds is required to create an institutional RDM strategy and notify the agencies when it has been completed.



Data Management Plans (DMPs)

For certain funding opportunities, the agencies will require DMPs to be submitted to the appropriate agency at time of application, as outlined in the call for proposals.



Data deposit

Grant recipients are required to deposit into a digital repository all digital research data, metadata and code that directly support the research conclusions in journal publications and pre-prints that arise from agency-supported research.

International context



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Why Institutional strategies?

- Identify capabilities and gaps
- Encourage alignment and collaboration
- Allow tailoring to specific context and needs
- Collectively provide a snapshot of national RDM capacity

Institutional strategies should

- Recognize and promote data as an important research output
- Support researchers in establishing and carrying out RDM practices
- Recognize Indigenous data sovereignty and the importance of a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous research

Monitoring and compliance

- Requirement intended in a spirit of collegiality, to raise RDM capacity at institutions across the country
- The agencies will review but not formally evaluate the strategies

Published institutional strategies

- The agencies are monitoring compliance and sharing links to published strategies: [Published institutional research data management strategies \(science.gc.ca\)](https://science.gc.ca)
- To notify the agencies when your institutional strategy has been published: ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

Emerging themes

- CARE principles and Indigenous data sovereignty
- Small institutions are collaborating regionally
- Many institutions are just getting started
- Strategies are high-level
- Institutional RDM strategies panel series on [YouTube](#)

Responses to common concerns

- Community-led (agencies are providing high-level expectations and closely following community developments)
- Strategies will evolve (not final expression)
- Not expected to solve all problems immediately
- Flexible for your institution
- FAQ: [Frequently Asked Questions \(science.gc.ca\)](https://science.gc.ca)

DMPs

- Becoming widely used and accepted as a part of research excellence
- Living documents
- Do not require open sharing of data -- “as open as possible and as safeguarded as necessary”

DMPs should describe

- How data will be collected, documented, formatted, protected and preserved;
- How existing datasets will be used and what new data will be created over the course of the research project;
- Whether and how data will be shared; and
- Where data will be deposited.

DMP implementation

CIHR

- Network Grants in Skin Health, Bone Health, and Muscular Dystrophy (launched)
- Virtual Care/Digital Health Team Grants (Anticipated launch late 2022 or early winter 2023)
- Data Science for Equity (Anticipated launch late 2022 or early winter 2023)
- Other pilots

NSERC

- Subatomic Physics Discovery Grants - Individual and Project (Anticipated launch summer 2023)

SSHRC

- Partnership Grants Stage 2 (Anticipated launch summer 2023)

Partnership Grants DMP Pilot Assessment (proposed)

- Recommending but not requiring use of DMP Assistant
- Submission as PDF with 2-3 page recommended length (max of 5 pages)
- Reviewers will comment on DMPs but not use them in application scoring
- DMP may be reviewed at the mid-term review stage
- External consultation on this approach will take place in early 2023

Resources for institutions and researchers

- SSHRC Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative through [Connection Grants](#)
- Published institutional RDM strategies [webpage](#)
- CIHR Research Data Management [Learning Module](#)
- Alliance [Institutional Strategies tools and resources](#) (template, videos, and discussion prompts)
- Alliance [DMP Assistant](#)
- Supports for reviewers and applicants (in development)

Thank you!

SSHRC: ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

NSERC: ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

CIHR: ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

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