

Spotlight on Data

Changing funder mandates, journal policies, and research practices have led to increased pressure for data support on campus. As the need for data services grows, libraries and the IR continue to play a central role in supporting both the technology and advising needs of researchers. Here's what you need to know as you develop your own program.

Why it's a good idea to share and store data:

- It's a requirement: The increase of funder mandates and journal policies requiring data sharing means that for many researchers, data sharing is a requirement, not a choice.
- Peace of mind: Storing data with the IR lets researchers stop worrying about things like what would happen if their hard-drive crashed, or keeping track of multiple thumb-drives.
- Good scientific practice: Sharing allows others to replicate experiments and access data, reuse data, and collaborate more effectively.

What Digital Commons offers:

- Digital Commons is free for the researcher.
- Digital Commons does not impose capacity limits on file sizes or projects.
- Digital Commons lets researchers put their research into context.
- Data will have permanent URLs that can be used for citation in future publications.
- Digital Commons has suggested metadata fields for datasets and our consultants can work with researchers to customize the metadata to the project.
- Data is stewarded by the library and university, both of whom are committed to the long-term preservation and visibility of the work.

What does data look like on Digital Commons:

- Datasets can be linked to related content including:
 - Published articles: scholarship.umassmed.edu/datasets/2/
 - Books: digitalcommons.chapman.edu/art_data/

- Other datasets: scholarworks.umt.edu/flathead/
- Multimedia datasets can benefit from many features, including pan and zoom for images, geo-location tools, and streaming audio and video.
- Digital Commons Consultants can advise on best practices for different categories of datasets.

Why store data on DC instead of elsewhere?

- While many fields have a clearly identifiable disciplinary repository (Pubmed, Genbank, ICPSR), most campuses still have a great deal of unmet data needs.
- Some disciplinary repositories don't accept all types of data that might be useful to share.
- The sharp increase in data-driven projects across the campus means that disciplines without standardized data methodologies are in need of advising and infrastructure support.
- Publishing data on Digital Commons lets readers understand it in context (with introductory text, detailed metadata, and links to related content)—far more useful than simply storing it