Connecting with Researchers: RDM Consults

James Doiron
RDM Services Coordinator, UofA Libraries
Academic Director, UofA Research Data Centre
Co-Chair, Portage DMP Expert Group

Shifting Horizons II: Realities of RDM Services
University of Ottawa
February 20, 2020

RDM consults play a key role in identifying:

- areas of research where essential RDM support and services may be provided
- collaborative opportunities between researchers & RDM service providers
- specific RDM supports that projects may leverage
RDM consults: Challenges

While every RDM consult is unique, there are some fairly common challenges that you may encounter:

**Late comers**
RDM consults may be initiated at any phase of the research life cycle, from grant writing to data deposit.

**Buy-in**
Researchers may differentially understand and/or value RDM.

**Limited time and resources**
almost always never enough of either!

**‘Want to’ vs ‘have to’**
it’s ‘easier’ not to do RDM

**Is everyone here?**
May not always involve everyone who should be there

**Non-Library supports**
Some projects require RDM supports that are outside the scope of what can be offered

**Generalist vs. Specialist**
Some projects require very specialized support
RDM consults: Challenges

While every RDM consult is unique, there are some fairly common challenges that you may encounter:

**Late comers**
Try to be proactive when able, and encourage researchers to come early on, even if it is for the next time!

**Limited time and resources**
Lean but meaningful time→showcase available resources

**Non-Library supports**
Note where there are opportunities to connect them with other available resources

**Buy-in**
Build knowledge & how RDM can help strengthen their research

‘Want to’ vs ‘have to’
it’s ‘easier’ not to do RDM→they will use what they value

**Is everyone here?**
Identify key roles & people→encourage including them

**Generalist vs. Specialist**
You don’t have to do it all→bring in the experts!
The initial RDM consult → Talk about their research!
There is no one way to conduct an initial RDM consult, though there is a general approach & questions to consider using → gather info & assess

2. **Pre-Research:**
   - Including RDM into funding applications
   - Funder requirements
   - Data Management Plans
   - Data discovery
   - Participant consent & Information Letters
   - Ethics applications

3. **During Research:**
   - Primary data collection
   - Data storage
   - Data transferring
   - Data access
   - Data documentation/metadata
   - File naming conventions

4. **Post-Research:**
   - Publication requirements
   - Data deposit
General RDM consult questions

- Nature of their research
General RDM consult questions

- Nature of their research
- Are they seeking specific type(s) of RDM support?
General RDM consult questions

- Nature of their research
- Are they seeking specific type(s) of RDM support?
- What stage of the research cycle are they at?
  - Funding application support?
  - DMP?
General RDM consult questions

- Nature of their research
- Are they seeking specific type(s) of RDM support?
- What stage of the research cycle are they at?
  - Funding application support?
  - DMP?
- Project timelines?
General RDM consult questions

- Nature of their research
- Are they seeking specific type(s) of RDM support?
- What stage of the research cycle are they at?
  - Funding application support?
  - DMP?
- Project timelines?
- Funded research?
  - If so, by whom?
  - Review funder policies
General RDM consult questions

- Nature of their research
- Are they seeking specific type(s) of RDM support?
- What stage of the research cycle are they at?
  - *Funding application support?*
  - *DMP?*
- Project timelines?
- Funded research?
  - If so, by whom?
  - Review funder policies
- Co-PIs/Collaborators?
  - *Multi-institutional?*
  - *Multi-disciplinary?*
General RDM consult questions

- Nature of their research
- Are they seeking specific type(s) of RDM support?
- What stage of the research cycle are they at?
  - Funding application support?
  - DMP?
- Project timelines?
- Funded research?
  - If so, by whom?
  - Review funder policies
- Co-PIs/Collaborators?
  - Multi-institutional?
  - Multi-disciplinary?
- Projected journals to publish in?
Data Specific RDM consult questions

- Type(s) of data being collected
  - *i.e.*, surveys, audio/video, images, sensitive, GIS, code, etc.
Data Specific RDM consult questions

- Type(s) of data being collected
  - *e.g.*, surveys, audio/video, images, sensitive, GIS, code, etc.

- Format(s) of data
  - *Total amount (GBs/ TBs)*
Data Specific RDM consult questions

- Type(s) of data being collected
  - *i.e.*, surveys, audio/video, images, sensitive, GIS, code, etc.

- Format(s) of data
  - *Total amount (GBs/TBs)*

- Primary and/or secondary data?
Data Specific RDM consult questions

- Type(s) of data being collected
  - I.e., surveys, audio/video, images, sensitive, GIS, code, etc.

- Format(s) of data
  - Total amount (GBs/ TBs)

- Primary and/or secondary data?

- Magnitude of data
  - Total amount (GBs/ TBs)
  - Largest single file/zipped folders
  - Total number of files
Data Specific RDM consult questions

- Type(s) of data being collected
  - *e.g.*, surveys, audio/video, images, sensitive, GIS, code, etc.

- Format(s) of data
  - *Total amount (GBs/ TBs)*

- Primary and/or secondary data?

- Magnitude of data
  - *Total amount (GBs/ TBs)*
  - *Largest single file/ zipped folders*
  - *Total number of files*

- Metadata/documentation?
Data Specific RDM consult questions

- Type(s) of data being collected
  - *i.e.*, surveys, audio/video, images, sensitive, GIS, code, etc.

- Format(s) of data
  - *Total amount (GBs/TBs)*

- Primary and/or secondary data?

- Magnitude of data
  - *Total amount (GBs/TBs)*
  - *Largest single file/zipped folders*
  - *Total number of files*

- Metadata/documentation?

- Data deposit? If yes:
  - Discoverable?
  - Open or restricted access?
**Initial RDM consult questions: Bird’s eye view**

### General questions:
- Nature of their research
- What stage of the research cycle are they at?
  - *Funding application support?*
  - *DMP?*
- Project timelines?
- Funded research?
  - If so, by whom?
  - Review funder policies
- Co-PIs/Collaborators?
  - *Multi-institutional?*
  - *Multi-disciplinary?*
- Projected journals to publish in?

### Data specific questions:
- Type(s) of data being collected
- Format(s) of data
- Primary and/or secondary data?
- Magnitude of data
  - *Total amount (GBs/TBs)*
  - *Largest single file/zipped folders*
  - *Total number of files*
- Metadata/documentation?
- Data deposit? If yes:
  - *Discoverable?*
  - *Open or restricted access?*
Questions & Discussion

James Doiron
RDM Services Coordinator, UofA Libraries
Academic Director, UofA Research Data Centre
Co-Chair, Portage DMP Expert Group

jdoiron@ualberta.ca