

Project Statements 2017/18

Project Name: Research Data Management

Project Lead: Jay Brodeur

Project Team:

- Jay Brodeur
- Vivek Jadon

Project Goals:

Assume a lead role in developing research data management infrastructure and promoting a culture of data stewardship at McMaster. Collaborate with campus groups (e.g. MacData, ROADS, RHPCS, URC) and national programs (such as the Canadian Association of Research Libraries' Portage project) to ensure that appropriate resources and training are available for researchers, administrators and support staff.

Linked to the following Strategic Directions: #1 Research Acceleration, #5 Community Engagement, #7 Financial Health

Scope (work the project will include and will not include; end results)

- Included in the scope of this work are high-level communication, advocacy, and resource development activities, along with dissemination of information and skills through workshops and consultation on project-specific needs. In-scope work also includes collaboration on national-level projects as members of CARL Portage working groups, and participation in institutional-scale groups.

Time Frame (estimated)

- It is reasonable to assume that this initiative will continue over the medium term (at least 5 years); however, goals and objectives will be revisited and revised annually to accommodate the dynamic landscape.
- **Risks** (circumstances or events outside of the project team's control that will have a high adverse impact on the project if they occur) To some extent, the scope, direction, and nature of our work are sensitive to changes in the RDM landscape (both institutionally and nationally); these could have both negative and positive implications for our work.

Obstacles/Constraints

- At present, there are few to no mandates for research data management at institutional or national levels. As such, interest, involvement, and expectations vary considerably among stakeholders and potential participants.
- In many ways, the relatively slow development of mandates has been beneficial for the work of RDM@MAC, as it has resulted in a very gradual increase of interest and involvement over time. With our current resources, there is only a finite amount of time that can be dedicated to this initiative, so time management is a priority.

- National mandates are currently being developed by the major federal funding agencies (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC). As these are revealed, we expect that demand will increase markedly. At such a point, it will be important to revisit expectations and staffing for the initiative.
- More coordination, conversation, and community-building needs to take place at the institutional level.

Critical Milestones

1. Continue to refine our service model, internal scorecard, and quarterly targets;
2. Update our web pages to provide interested individuals with relevant and up-to-date RDM-related information and resources;
3. Establish an RDM working/interest group (Tier 3), which comprises individuals from key McMaster groups and service providers (MacDATA, RHPCS, MREB);
4. Implement the Portage-supported institutional RDM survey at McMaster
5. Establish McMaster Library as a key contributor to the development of RDM resources and services at provincial and national scales; and,
6. Proactively build capacity to meet RDM needs across campus, so that we are prepared to support new mandates, expectations, and requirements as they arise.

Assessment plan (how will we know if this project is successful?)

We've established an internal scoring system and scorecard to record our activity and assess the impact of our initiative. The scorecard can be found at this URL: <https://goo.gl/Ut9MzK>.

Update #1 (February 2018)

To this point, most of our time has been dedicated to three categories of activities:

1. Engaging in high-level discussions about RDM (and RDM-related) policy development with various stakeholder groups;
2. Continued work with CARL Portage, as members of their Expert and Working Groups; and,
3. Developing and offering RDM workshops to interested groups across campus.

Update #2 (April 2018)