

The Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy, two years in

Help Shape the Future of Research Data Management at Western
Wednesday 8 March 2023

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Types of data and tri-agency view

- The agencies acknowledge the diversity of models of scientific and scholarly inquiry that advance knowledge within and across the disciplines
- There are legitimate differences in the standards for RDM among disciplines, areas of research, and modes of inquiry
- Not an open data policy – as open as possible, as safeguarded as necessary

Tri-agency RDM policy launched in March 2021

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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 are the agencies requiring Institutional strategies?

Institutional strategies will:

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

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

Initial funding opportunities to include DMPs

CIHR

- Network Grants in Skin Health and Muscular Dystrophy
- Virtual Care/Digital Health Team Grants
- Data Science for Equity

NSERC

- Subatomic Physics Discovery Grants - Individual and Project

SSHRC

- Partnership Grants Stage 2

Why are the agencies requiring DMPs?

- Research excellence
- Required by funders around the world
- Benefits of considering data management in advance
- Importance of responsibly and securely managing research data
- Living documents

Approach to DMP implementation

- Suitability of Partnership Grants
- Consultations held in February 2023
- DMPs recommended to be brief but no page limit
- Comments will be provided but DMPs will not be evaluated yet
- Tri-agency co-ordination where possible

Data deposit implementation

- To be phased-in in line with the readiness of the Canadian research community and after reviewing institutional strategies
- Not an open data policy – as open as possible, as safeguarded as necessary
- The agencies expect researchers to provide appropriate access to the data where ethical, cultural, legal and commercial requirements allow

Resources for institutions and researchers

- RDM mailbox ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
- SSHRC Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative through [Connection Grants](#)
- Published institutional RDM strategies [webpage](#)
- CIHR Research Data Management [Learning Module](#)
- Alliance [tools and resources](#)

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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