

Data Sharing for Master's Theses: Survey and Recommendations

Sarah W. Holsapple, Brad Hemminger (advisor)

"A record if it is to be useful to science, must be continuously extended, it must be stored, and above all it must be consulted." (Bush, 1945)

BACKGROUND

Data sharing is becoming a norm in academic research. In the university, students write undergraduate capstone papers, masters papers and projects, and PhD dissertations, and take classes in data management and data curation. Has data sharing policy trickled down to these student works yet? This project has found that it hasn't, but posits that it should and proposes a data sharing policy for UNC SILS Masters papers/project.

- **Students create research data that never sees the light of day**
- **Students need a firm grounding in why/how to share research data**
- **Data sharing work is library work and is an area where library science and information science truly converge**
- **Library and Information Science students and schools should be open to data sharing and actively working to make sure data they create is openly available**

UNC SILS Data Sharing Policy recommendations

- **Data management plan** created using DMP Tool with proposal
- **Data availability statement** in final paper
- Data sharing is not required

Proposal Progress

- Will be discussed at an upcoming faculty meeting

What information do students need in order to share data

- Factors to think about when deciding to share data or not.
- Where to share the data.
- How to collect, maintain, and archive data so that others can access and understand how conclusions were reached
- Understanding of FAIR data principles
- How to prepare a 'readme' file to go with data that includes information on how data is structured and how it was analyzed
- How to deposit data in repository

Policy research

Data sharing policy in the US is shaped by requirements of funders of research and publishers of research. The university supports data sharing through repositories and research data management services.

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENT FUNDER REQUIREMENTS

- Data management plan
- Data sharing
- Some limits for classified/confidential/publicly identifiable info

PRIVATE FUNDERS REQUIREMENTS

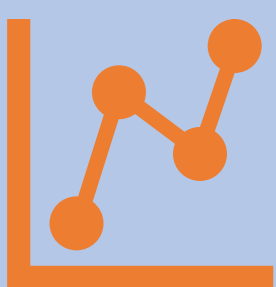
- Commitment to open access
- Some data sharing

PUBLISHERS REQUIREMENTS

- Data availability statement
- Levels of requirements based on journal, from encouraging data sharing to requiring data sharing

UNIVERSITY – TOP 10 LIS MASTERS PROGRAMS

- No data sharing requirements
- Institutional repositories available for papers/data
- Libraries offer support for sharing of data



Sarah W. Holsapple, MSIS, UNC SILS

sarahwh@ibiblio.org

link to paper:

https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/concern/masters_papers/6w924n24d

link to libguide: <https://tarheels.live/uncsilsdatabaring/>

