How Libraries Help Make Your Data Management as Easy as Pie

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**Recommended Citation**  
Cofield, Jill; Germain, Carol Anne; Puzier, Lauren; and Kilcer, Emily, "How Libraries Help Make Your Data Management as Easy as Pie" (2021). *University Libraries Faculty Scholarship*. 160.  
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Academic libraries at ARL & Carnegie I universities in the U.S. and Canada provide leadership to deliver comprehensive integrated Web-based data management services for faculty, graduate students, and researchers. Data management makes data more findable, usable, and reproducible; supports an ethical, responsible research environment; and meets funder and journal data-sharing requirements.

INTRO

In 2013 the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy directed federal agencies to increase public access to the results of federally-funded research.

More funders and journals are mandating data plans that require time to develop and necessary training, resulting in a clear need for data management services at universities.

METHODS

- 145 ARL & Carnegie R1 Libraries
- English speaking
- Web review/data collection
- Identified trends with data management services

RESULTS

Academic libraries provide data management services through dedicated scholarly communications Webpages or through stand-alone resources, such as LibGuides. Of the libraries studied:

- 95.1% provide data services
- 95.0% offer data management plan guidance
- 84.8% deliver Geographic Information System support
- 84.8% provide data sharing resources
- 69.7% address data visualization services

70% of 145 libraries provided dedicated scholarly communications pages

DISCUSSION

Over the past decade, academic libraries have developed a rich array of Web-based data management services to support University researchers, including:

- assistance with drafting and reviewing data management plans;
- link to the Data Management Planning tool (https://dmptool.org/);
- best practices related to data sharing, storage, curation and security; and
- case studies, sample plans, templates, training & workshops.

These libraries routinely borrow and openly share resources and tools among the scholarly communications community.

As libraries continue to expand data services, organization and integration of these services will be important goals.

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