Research Data Management Strategy

Policy Name	Responsible Owner	Created
Research Data Management Strategy	Vice-President Academic & Research	Feb 2024
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Category	**Replaces**	**Next Review**
Education	New	Feb 2030

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PURPOSE

In 2021, NSERC and SSHRC eligible institutions were required by the Tri-Council Research Data Management Policy[1] to publish a strategy regarding their commitment to a Research Data Management (RDM) system. The intent is for primary data collected with the assistance of Tri-Council agency funds to be made publicly accessible. Northern Lights College, keen to grow its research capacity, recognizes that developing appropriate supports, infrastructure, and resources includes an RDM plan as a necessary part of this process so that research will be compliant with RDM practices. The RDM strategy helps navigate towards our goal of championing research and establishing capacity. This strategy is the first step towards an RDM plan.

SCOPE

This strategy document applies to research-active faculty as users, Library services and IT services as resource organizers and supports, and to the Vice-President Academic & Research (VPAR) as the manager of RDM principles and practices.

POLICY STATEMENT

This document is the purview of the VPAR. The VPAR will report annually to the Education Council and Executive about the status of this strategy and how it contributes towards Northen Lights College research policies and practices, especially those related to RDM.

Northern Lights College RDM plans and practices will be developed to be aligned with current Tri-Council guidance. These plans will also be designed for the collective benefit of research at Northern Lights College (NLC) and its reputation as a community leader. The College is committed to a collaborative approach in this development.

SUPPORTING FORMS, DOCUMENTS, WEBSITES, RELATED POLICIES

[1]Tri-Council Research Data Management Policy (2021)
https://science.ised-isde.canada.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/research-data-management/tri-agency-research-data-management-policy

[2]Introducing FAIR principles
https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/
https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/wtc/data-literacy/catalogue/892000062022002
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OeCrQE3HhE

[3]The First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession – more commonly known as OCAP®
https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/

Appendix 5-year RDM Action Plan

1. **Promote Awareness of RDM at NLC**

    The VPAR will communicate with faculty and staff via emails and meetings to share general guidance and information about RDM, its role, and importance to NLC now and in the future.

2. **Provide RDM Training**

    Faculty and staff will be made aware of the FAIR Principles[2] (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable) for RDM and will be encouraged to build knowledge here by engaging in open-source materials. Where possible and/or required they will also be offered training in Indigenous principles of data ownership, control, access, and possession (e.g., OCAP©[3]). Specifically for faculty making applications for Tri-Council agency research funding: they will know to seek out training and support when developing their Data Collection and Management (DCM) plans as part of these applications. DCMs often involve delineating how new research data will be collected, processed, secured, archived, and, if possible, publicly shared (e.g., online repository). Such plans will also identify the data-related roles and responsibilities of researchers and their team members (where appropriate) and make clear the main person(s) responsible for managing data. An RCM will also include a succession plan for such management. It is up to the researcher making an application to the Tri-Council to outline the ethical, legal, methodological, and commercial constraints to which data are likely to be subject, and to make the case as to whether or not making data public or not is possible or not.

3. **Develop Sound RDM Governance**

    The VPAR, along with shareholders, in consultation with relevant individuals, will develop Data Governance Policy that will establish Northern Lights College standards related to the sound and secure management of research data. This will align with our forthcoming Integrity in Research and Scholarship policy.

4. **Provide Access to RDM Tools**

    The VPAR and shareholders, in consultation with research-active faculty, will work together to develop an online data repository system that is fit for purpose. This will include establishing secure methods of storing different types of data, where appropriate, and making them available for reuse by others by being publicly accessible online.