What Is Data Management?

Data management involves data care-taking activities over the course of a research project. Key practices include:

• Preparing data management plans (DMPs) for grant proposals
• Organizing and documenting data so that others can understand it
• Optimizing analysis processes
• Securing sensitive data
• Ensuring sufficient storage and backup processes
• Sharing data effectively
• Preserving the data after the project ends

Why Is Data Management Relevant to Teaching and Research?

Managing data throughout coursework and research helps students and faculty:

• Ensure data are easier to find, share, and re-use
• Ensure data are not lost
• Replicate past results or use old data in new ways
• Comply with funding agency data management and sharing requirements
• Increase the discoverability and impact of work

Selected Resources & Tools

General
• Research Data Toolkit (UNC)

Writing Data Management Plans
• DMP Tool

Managing Data
• Dataverse
• REDCap
• ITS Research Computing

Describing Data
• Disciplinary Metadata

Depositing Data
• Carolina Digital Repository
• Dataverse
• ICPSR
• Dryad
• NIH Repositories
• re3data

Get Started

The University Libraries and the Odum Institute provide data management services, workshops, customized classroom visits, and one-on-one consultations through the Research Hub. To learn about data management services, contact the Research Hub data management staff: dataplan@listserv.unc.edu.

To discuss using data management in your course, request a joint consultation with the Research Hub and the Center for Faculty Excellence: researchhub@unc.edu.