Research Data as Part of a Personal Archive:

Personal Archiving Consultation as part of Research Data Services

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BACKGROUND

The University of Manitoba Libraries (UML) is currently implementing Research Data Services (RDS). As part of these RDS, we are exploring how tailored Personal Archiving Consultation may assist individuals in properly creating and managing their data across the research lifecycle.

Personal Archiving Consultation: The digital creation environments (hardware/software platforms, file formats, data volume, back-up intervals, etc.) of researchers are thoroughly assessed in order to provide them with appropriate preservation regimes for their data.

OBJECTIVES

- **To explore the data creation and management environment of researchers.**
- **To devise discipline-specific Personal Archiving Consultation as part of larger Research Data Services at the UofM.**
- **Recruit participants for more in-depth in-person interviews re: data management practices/needs**

METHODS

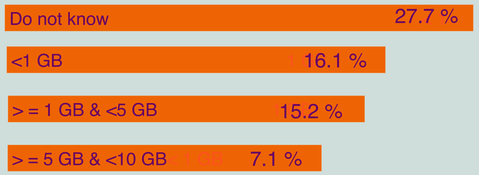
Short online survey (approx.10 min) asking about:

- Data management plan
- Size of data produced/reused/shared
- Type of main/backup storage
- Data file formats
- Interests in research data services
- Willingness to participate in a follow-up interview

To reach our target population (UM-affiliated researchers engaged in active projects), we promoted our survey through the Office of Research Services, Faculty of Graduate Studies, campus publications, and liaison librarians.

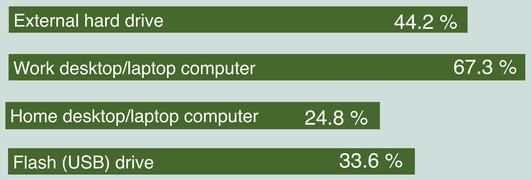
PHASE 1 RESULTS

Data Production Amount

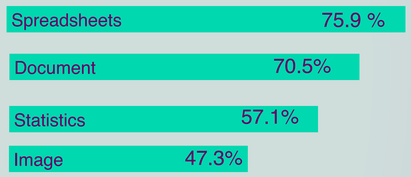


Currently using DMP

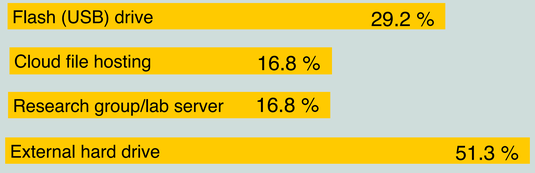
Data Storage Location



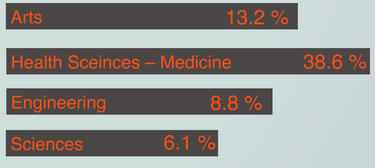
Data File Formats



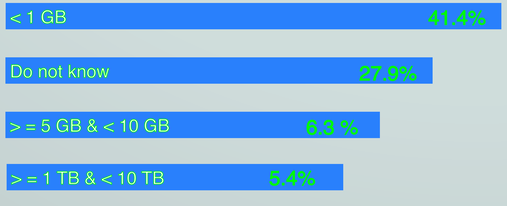
Data Back-up Location



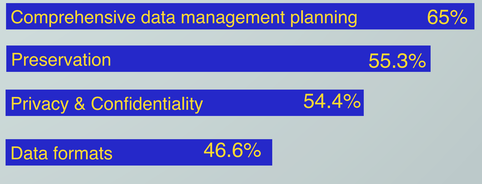
Faculty Affiliation



Data Sharing Amount



Most wanted RDS



KEY FINDINGS

- 31.3 % of respondents say they produced less than 5 GB data in their recent project while 41.4% say they shared less than 1 GB of data.
- 38.6% of respondents are from Faculty of Health Sciences - College of Medicine.
- The majority of respondents (65%) are interested in the service of comprehensive **data management planning, making it the most in-demand service**.
- Among the **most in-demand services are those closely related to personal archiving**: preservation (2nd, 55.3% of respondents selected it), data formats (4th, 46.6%), and repositories (6th, 44.7%).
- Privacy and confidentiality (3rd, 54.4%) and intellectual property (5th, 45.6%) are among the most in-demand services, and should be given priority.
- 41.6% of respondents willing to participate in a follow-up interview

CONCLUSION

- Data formats, amounts, storage, & backup locations are not as diverse as anticipated.
- Consumer-grade storage and backup platforms are used by the majority of respondents.
- Survey responses indicate that Personal Archives Consultation should be an essential component of our RDS.
- Front-end archiving consultation on data formats and platforms will pay dividends at the repository stage of the research lifecycle.
- Phase 2 interviews will help us refine and tailor our RDS for specific disciplines.

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