



Office of Research and Graduate Studies

NDRIO White Paper

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On behalf of Cape Breton University

As a small research institution, CBU has unique needs when discussing DRI tools, services and supports. We rely heavily on National Initiatives, and applaud all who have worked on these supports and services.

Current Issues

CBU has developed a support system for Research Data Management on campus, with a small staff compliment (librarian), and relying on National Collaborative efforts from Portage. Without these national collaborations, we would be unable to offer sufficient services and supports for our researchers. CBU makes use of the Data Management Plan tool – The DMP Assistant- available on Portage’s website, to aid researchers in creation of data management plans. We also offer data repository services through Dataverse or FRDR. CBU has an institutional dataverse account on the Scholar’s Portal Dataverse, which is supported at the library.

We heavily rely on Portage’s documentation, training and services. Aside from the DMP tool, and dataverse/FRDR, we also relied heavily on the documentation and draft template for our Institutional Data Management Strategy, as well as sample research data policy. We appreciate having the documentation and training available to us while creating local services.

The missing service/ support at our institution is secure local storage for research data, as well as long term preservation for data that cannot be openly shared. Our Dataverse/ FRDR will describe, make accessible and archive open data, however we have no local support for data storage for active data, or long term secure storage after the research project is over.



Future DRI State and How to Bridge the Gap

At Cape Breton University, we are excited about the future state of research data infrastructure, as we believe that managing data well is crucial for high quality research. As a small institution that relies on national services, we would suggest the continued support and funding for Portage, who offers practical tools for researchers such as DMP services and open data portals, for sharing research data, as well as training and support for local data experts and support staff.

One of our challenges here is staffing, as the support staff have other full time jobs, and there is no position that is designated as support for research data management . National support for staffing to aid in RDM services would be high on our list of needs.

We would also suggest provincial or local storage options for sensitive data. This could be accomplished by adding targeted funding to research grants to help with the data storage and management, purchasing servers and support, as well as support for long term secure storage of sensitive data.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this white paper, and for the continued investment in research infrastructure in Canada.