Thesis Research Data

Preserve it in Summit!

SFU Library Data Services Team

Website: www.lib.sfu.ca/data
Email: data-services@sfu.ca
Q : Do I have research data?
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A : Most likely, yes.
Research Data

- Tabular
- Spatial
- Lab notes
- Picture
- Audio
- Video
- Transcript
Data repositories: What and why?

- **What?**
  - Online collection of research

- **Why?**
  - Curation
  - Discoverability
  - Permanent identifiers
  - Adheres to standards
  - Preservation

Image by Flickr user Clancy Ratliff
Merits of publishing your research data

- - -

● Accelerate discovery

● Increase citation frequency

● Promote academic integrity

● Avoid accidental loss of records

● Collaborate across disciplines
Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy

“The agencies believe that research data collected through the use of public funds should be..., where ethical, legal and commercial obligations allow, available for reuse by others.”
Limitations to making data open

- Intellectual property may be shared or belong to another party.
- Privacy of individuals may be compromised.
- Consent of participants may not have been attained.
- Research may cover a sensitive topic that may not be appropriate for public distribution of microdata.
How to open data

- **Openly accessible**
  - Well known data repository
  - Downloadable
  - Clean

- **Open format**
  - Non-proprietary
  - Usable

- **Open license**
  - Creative Commons
How else to open data? Describe it!

- Codebook
- ReadMe.txt
- Data dictionary
- Repository metadata

Image by Flickr user Wojciech Kulicki
Documentation Levels

- Project level
- File or database level
  - A roadmap to all of your data files, typically in a readme.txt file
- Variable or item level
  - List of every variable name with full description
Preserve your data!
(deposit it, even if you’re not sharing it)
... NASA tried to locate the master magnetic tapes but they’d gone missing. Following an epic search through the organization’s massive archives, officials concluded that the original moon landing footage was recorded over with satellite footage captured sometime in the 1980s, during a period when the agency was short on magnetic tape.

https://mozillascience.github.io/open-data-primers/1.2-open-data-irl.html
Summit

- SFU’s open access research repository
- Contains the scholarly output of SFU students and researchers, including theses!
- Formatting Supplemental Materials for Summit

Benefits:
- You retain the rights
- Preservation
- Citations
- Discoverability
- Accessibility
- Bundles your thesis and associated research data
Other repositories

- Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR)

- Registry of Research Data Repositories
  - [https://www.re3data.org/](https://www.re3data.org/)
For further information...

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