

Research Data Management in the Canadian Context: A Guide for Practitioners and Learners

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There has been a growing emphasis on the importance of Research Data Management (RDM) in Canada. The release of the Government of Canada 2021 Tri-Agency RDM Policy and the rise of big data have contributed to the need for increasing education around RDM in Canada. *Research Data Management in the Canadian Context: A Guide for Practitioners and Learners* is an Open Educational Resource (OER) textbook available in both English and French that is targeted toward instructors in need of resources to support their teaching of RDM. This textbook is also suited to supporting librarians, students, and researchers with varying knowledge and experience levels in RDM who are seeking current information and guidance on RDM practices in Canada. This textbook provides an array of explanations, examples, best practices, and points of consideration guiding readers to a deeper understanding of the

multi-faceted RDM landscape in Canada and the myriad contributors, processes, resources, and organizations that make up the national RDM environment today.

Divided into five sections, *RDM in the Canadian Context* is structured in a way that caters to a broad audience, offering beginners a foundational understanding while challenging more experienced practitioners with critical perspectives. Its segmented format allows for a tailored exploration of specific RDM topics, or a cover-to-cover read that facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the complex RDM landscape in Canada.

Section I includes definitions and explanations of crucial foundational RDM concepts like data management plans (DMPs), the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability) for RDM, the Tri-Agency RDM Policy, data repositories, and Indigenous Data Sovereignty. This section is helpful for those newer to RDM as it provides a solid foundation of RDM knowledge from which to build upon.

Section II provides thorough historical context for RDM in Canada and explains the different figures and organizations instrumental in shaping the current landscape. This section serves as a valuable primer for new or aspiring librarians and students in library and information programs as it details the historical progression and key stakeholders at both the provincial and national levels and the infrastructure that has evolved across the country over time.

Section III provides some more specific explanations of processes involved in RDM like data curation, data cleaning, data management planning, and digital preservation. This section is helpful for both novices and seasoned RDM practitioners to grasp best practices in these areas.

Section IV explores different types of data and their associated best practices for data management. This section emphasizes management strategies for sensitive data and discusses qualitative, quantitative, and geospatial research data management practices.

In Section V, the discourse shifts toward discussing existing challenges facing RDM and the Open Science movement. This section prompts critical reflection on the complexity of RDM and potential avenues for change and growth. It describes RDM as

both an art and a science, encouraging readers to engage with RDM in reflective and critical ways.

As RDM continues to garner more attention, and interest in and courses about RDM are likely to increase, this textbook fills a gap by providing an appropriate resource for individuals at various stages of familiarity with RDM from beginners to expert practitioners. The versatility of *RDM in the Canadian Context* extends across various educational domains. This textbook is suitable for integration into library and information school courses, RDM workshops, and as a reference for researchers and RDM specialists. Further, this textbook is a valuable resource for administrators to learn about RDM's policy and regulatory dimensions. From beginner to experienced, *RDM in the Canadian Context* explains RDM at different levels. While newcomers gain substantial knowledge, those more experienced in RDM are prompted with critical considerations regarding RDM in Canada and the factors influencing its current state.

Conflict of Interest Statement

None declared.

References

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