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Talking Points To Use With Researchers

These talking points are used to facilitate discussions with research data creators and owners. These talking points cover the most essential questions related to research data such as storage, access and preservation.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:
- WHAT data set or particular research project do you want to discuss?
- WHERE are you in the process (collection data, analyzing, publishing an article, or archiving)?
- ARE you planning to share your data set? If you have a grant, does your grant require you to share your data set?
- IS there a specific audience for this research project or data set?
- IF you are applying for a grant, does it have a data management plan or sharing requirement?
- IF you have applied for a grant, which one and what are the requirements for sharing data?

Try to identify where in the life cycle the data set is. See Data Management Guide.

STORAGE/ORGANIZING DATA:
- WHERE are you storing your data? Do you know UConn's storage options?
- DO you perform regular backups?
- DO you need long and/or short term storage?
- DO you have a consistent file structure and file naming convention?
- WHAT are the primary data formats (image/tiff, text/csv, text/xslx, audio/wav, R files, application/zip, SAS, etc.) of your data set? Please be specific as possible.
- WHAT are your data collection and analysis procedures?

Try to identify the structure and organization of the data set. Refer to the storage matrix for active data storage options. For static data, refer to the appropriate disciplinary repository or contact the Libraries for more information for UConn's Data Archive at researchdata@uconn.edu.

SHARING:
- HOW do you plan on sharing your data? Is there an appropriate disciplinary data repository?
- IS the data set required to be made publically available within a certain amount of time?
- FOR how long does the data set need to be made publically available?
- IF there is no appropriate disciplinary data repository, are you interested in the UConn Data Archive?

Try to determine the intended means of sharing the data set according to the project's specifications.

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ACCESS:

- HOW will people discovery your data set?
- HOW do you anticipate that the data set will be used?
- DO you need to describe your data set in a disciplinary repository or in UConn's Data Archive? Does your data set have a title, author(s), date, funder information, keywords, abstract, etc.?
- DO you have an existing README file(s) or any documentation about the data set? This documentation can be about the history of the project, terms used in the data set, analysis methods, file formats, file organization, etc.
- IS the data set understandable and meaningful to others in its current state? Will you need to make modifications or create documentation so that others understand the organization, meaning, and context of the data set?

Try to determine how people will access, discover, and possibly use the researcher's data set.