# Opening Doors to Research Success:
# Data Management Programming and Outreach

## Abstract

The success of Research Data Management (RDM) programs at universities relies principally upon outreach and collaboration. Since arriving at the UConn library in June 2017, we have rebuilt a research data management outreach and education program that was largely dormant. Collaboration and outreach consist largely of metaphorically "opening doors" for others in our campus' research community: graduate students, faculty, staff, and upper-class undergraduates. We aim to increase awareness of research data management best practices, and thereby improve the success of research completed at our university.

**Our outreach goal is to enable new connections in our community and to help make research outputs findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable.**
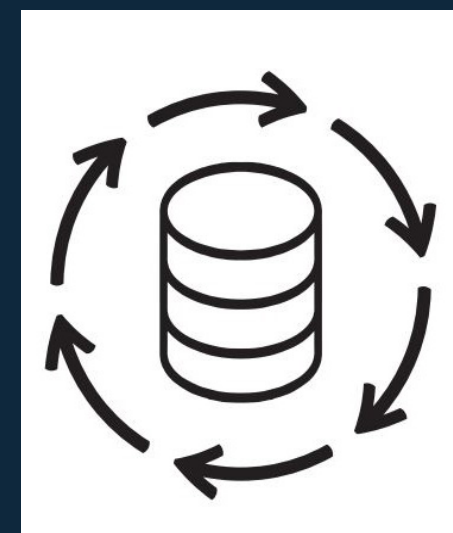
## Visibility & Marketing



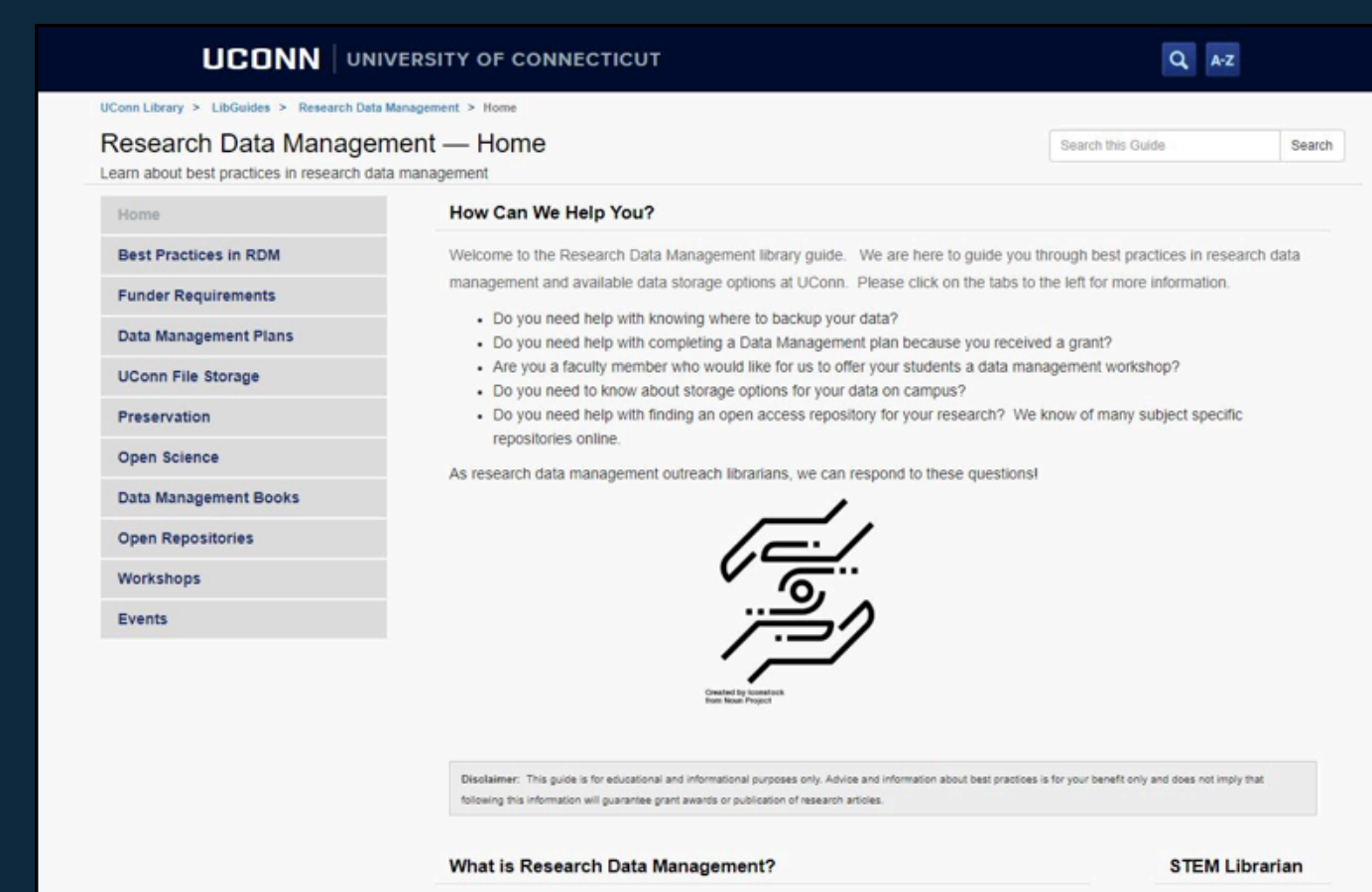Renee with the UConn Library Research Data Services canvas tote

Our Fall 2018 Research Data Services flyer

Our research services logo

- We promoted the research data management program by creating a research libguide website with references to best practices in RDM as well as resources particular to UConn.
- We chose a logo to represent research data services. Our logo is a representation of data storage surrounded by circular arrows which promote the idea of the research lifecycle and data reuse. We designed the logo with help from Emily Ko, Communications Designer. Jean Nelson, Head of Communications & Engagement also helped advertise our events.
- We created a promotional flyer listing all of our fall 2018 events and distributed it both electronically as a PDF and physically by hanging the flyers on Science department bulletin boards across campus. We posted our events on the library's website, in the Faculty/Staff and student daily digest and in the weekly Engineering email newsletter.

## Our Research libguide



https://guides.lib.uconn.edu/datamanagement

## Community Building

### Open Science for Open Knowledge: A Roundtable

The 2018 theme for International Open Access week was "Designing Equitable Foundations for Open Knowledge." Renee invited professors and a graduate student from UConn to discuss a series of questions about the meaning of open science today. Renee invited the following participants to our fall 2018 open science roundtable:



Todd Campbell, Ph.D., Professor, Neag School of Education
Justin Cotney, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Genetics and Genome Sciences, UConn Health
Svetlana Gelpí-Dominguez, Ph.D. '20, Gascón Group, Department of Chemistry
Bryan Weber, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Residence, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, UConn

This event proved beneficial because Assistant Professor Justin Cotney from UConn Health Center told his colleagues in Farmington, CT about our services. This led to us being invited to UConn Health in the Spring of 2019 to speak with graduate students about research data management.

## Programming

### Types of Outreach Programming



| Vendor Events | Workshops Designed by Us | Community Events |
|---|---|---|
| Lunch & Learn with Code Ocean | RDM 101: Data Management | Data Salon at Hartford Public Library |
| Figshare visit | Metadata Workshop | Love Data Week Event |
| IET Analytics visit | Data Storytelling | Endangered Data Week Discussion |
| Altmetric.com visit | Data Visualization in the Humanities | Open Science Roundtable |
| IEEE visist | First Year Engineering Research Workshops | Science Research Roundtable |
| | NSF DMP Workshop | Hosted Data Librarian Roundtable at UConn |

### Workshops Designed by Us

**RDM 101:**



Jennifer C. teaching a Fall 2018 RDM 101 workshop

**Vendor Events:**
- We invite vendors that offer free research data management repositories or platforms to come to campus and speak about their services.

**Consultations:**
- In addition to offering workshops and events, we are always available for research consultations at the library as well as Data Management Plan review.
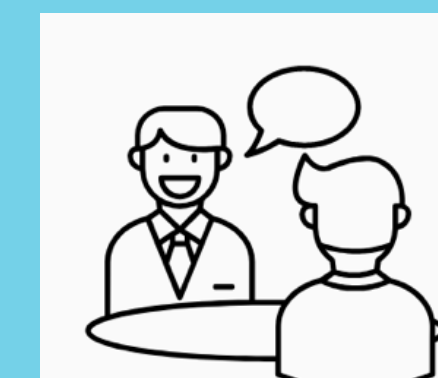


Image source: https://thenounproject.com/
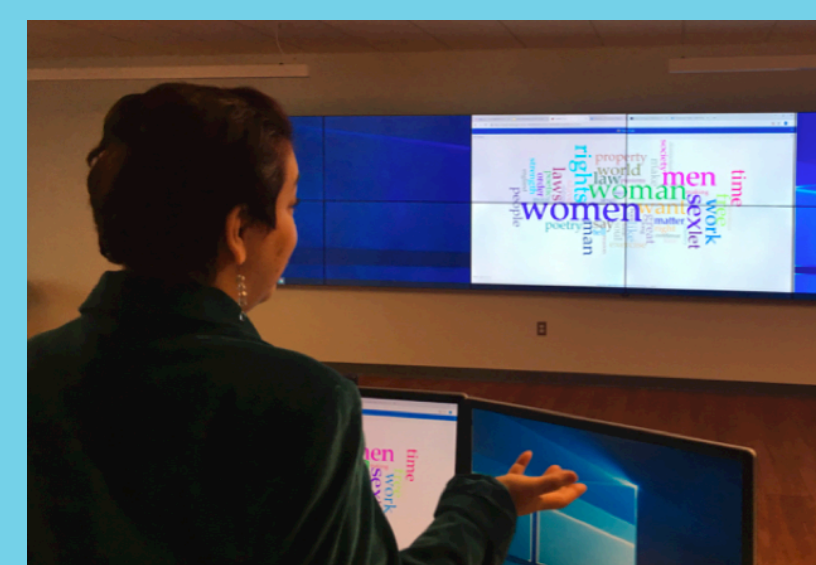
### Research Roundtable Part 2

For our second roundtable of the year we invited 3 post-doc and graduate students to give short 10-15 minute talks about their research followed by a roundtable discussion moderated by Renee Walsh.



Above: Casey Youngflesh, Quantitative Ecologist, Postdoctoral Fellow, Tingley Lab, UConn, Cory Brunson, UConn Health Center, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Quantitative Medicine, Michelle Spoto, DMD/Ph.D Candidate, School of Dental Medicine, UConn Health

### Data Everywhere!

We also make connections with students, staff, and faculty on campus through classes and events that are not data management specific. For example, we teach a session on library research to first year undergraduate students in the School of Engineering during their first and second semesters on campus. While the focus of the class is on Engineering research sources in the library and research databases, we also mention that we are librarians for data management. We also collaborate in cross disciplinary ways with social science and humanities librarians to offer programming on topics like the digital humanities. Renée recently co-planned and co-taught a class with librarian Marisol Ramos on using Voyant for text analysis and visualization. These types of events allow us to introduce data services to faculty and students in the humanities and social sciences.





Above: Marisol Ramos talking about her word cloud visualization analysis of chapter XXVI of Póstumo Envirginiado, a Puerto Rican 19th century novel from Alejandro Tapia y Rivera.

## Network Building

Regular programming and visibility has led to new connections and opened doors for us too. Small and large opportunities have arisen from our connections and have led to fruitful collaborations and expanded our roles as data librarians.
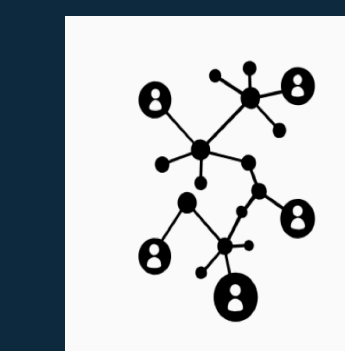


Image source: https://thenounproject.com/

- Presented RDM best practices workshop for a group of medical and dental PhD students at their monthly professional development gathering.
- Using these new connections to our Health Center students and staff, we have invited students to speak at our events and opening doors to them as well. We hope to keep expanding our RDM services to the health center students and staff.



## Responsible Conduct of Research Training

- Partnering with the the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) was a mid-to long range goal of Research Data Services, after we became more established.
- Our early initial efforts at growing the RDM program and networking paid off sooner than expected! The Associate Vice President for Research Integrity & Regulatory Affairs heard about our Research Data Management 101 workshops, and enthusiastically invited us to present that material during the Responsible Conduct of Research training workshops.
- This invitation allowed us to educate around 150 students and staff on RDM best practices through this event alone and opened doors to further collaboration with the OVPR.

## Engineering NSF CAREER grant workshops

- The Engineering department on our campus hosts a series of workshops for faculty who are submitting grant proposals to the NSF Faculty Career Early Development (CAREER) program. We have presented on RDM Best Practices to this group twice now as they prepare for their first grant applications.
- Collaborating with the School of Engineering allows their students and staff to learn better RDM practices and to do better research, and it allows us to become more embedded in their department.

## UConn CARIC grant and NIH Superfund grant (PFOS & PFAS research)

- Our work with the Engineering department on the CAREER grant workshops led the Dean to think of us when writing a grant proposal for a major NIEHS Superfund Research Center.
- Collaborating with the School of Engineering allows their students and staff to learn better RDM practices and to do better research, and it allows us to become more embedded in their department.



Image Source: http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/PFAS.aspx?search?q=network&i=1007327

- Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)and perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) are man made substances that contaminate groundwater. A common source is firefighting foams around airport runways.
- Initially, we are working on an internal 2 year CARIC grant to complete the initial research that will form the basis of the NIH Superfund Research Center grant proposal.
- We are participating in the Data Management Core, along with a team leader from our School of Business. The entire grant team is multi-disciplinary from across the university.
- Data librarians collaborating on a multi-million dollar research grant opens doors for the researchers to have strong support for their research data, and for us to learn new skills and grow in our roles.

**Conclusion:** Outreach and programming activities increase librarian visibility on campus and help build the library's reputation for providing data services. Small steps over time lead to bigger successes. Even one or two meaningful interactions with staff or graduate students will lead to larger impact and greater interactions over time. We aim to build a strong sense of community through our programming and RDM resources. Secondly, we aim to make the research output of our campus more F.A.I.R. and therefore more successful, transparent, and innovative.

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