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# Research Data Services at Yale University

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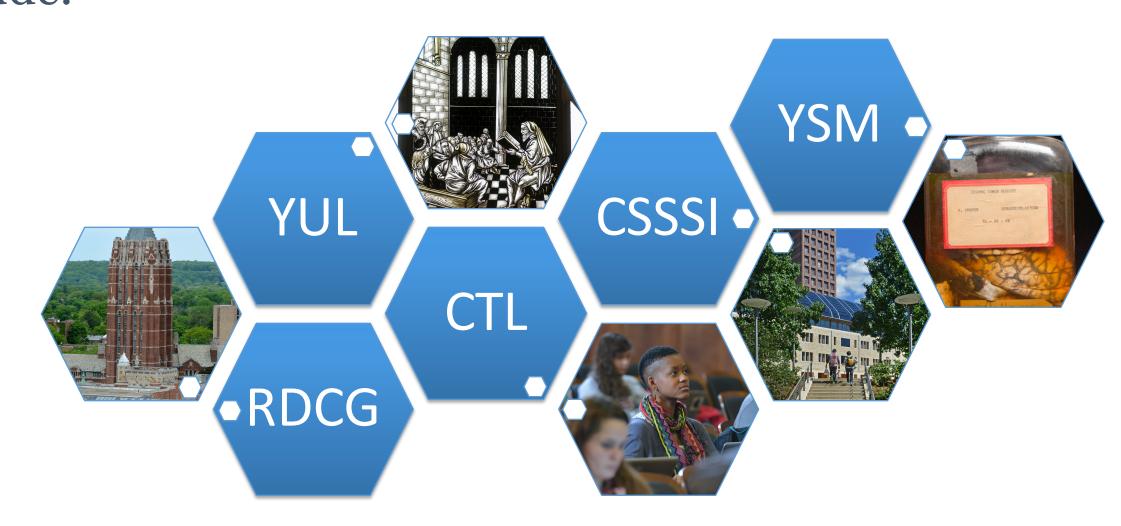
**researchdata.yale.edu**

## CONTEXT

Yale University Library has been providing support for social science data for over 40 years. In recent years, and highlighted by the creation of the Center for Science and Social Science Information, Yale has expanded this expertise into combined services for social science, science, and medicine, university-wide. This poster summarizes recent activity leading to the formation of the Research Data Consultation Group in 2015.

## BACKGROUND & PARTNERS

In 2012, Yale University Library and Yale Information Technology Services participated jointly in the eScience Institute offered by DLF, ARL, and CLIR. Recommendations coming out of that agenda included:

1. Develop and formalize an institutional strategy for RDM
2. Develop a standard list of services that exist relating to RDM
3. Create a RDM education program for faculty, students, and staff

Many departments and centers have been offering data services. The RDCG is strategically positioned to work with these groups to answer how to best coordinate data services efforts. Groups include:

- Yale University Library (multiple units)
- Center for Teaching and Learning
- Center for Research Computing
- Provost's Office
- Institution for Social and Policy Studies
- Yale Information Technology Services

## CURRENT SERVICES & WORKFLOW

The Research Data Consultation Group is a collaborative, university-wide group charged with responding to service requests and inquiries from researchers at any stage in the data lifecycle in order to work together on best practices, implement data management services, and help link users to resources.

Current services include consultation on:
- Data management planning
- Finding & using data
- Data collection, analysis, and processing
- Distributing, sharing, and archiving data

Workflow:
1. Requests come into a listserv from a web-based form.
2. RDCG discusses the consultation requests and triages them to the most appropriate members of the RDCG or refers them outside if necessary.
3. We record interactions and time spent on requests in an RDCG version of the original request form.

## AIM

The aims of RDCG are:
- To streamline consultative workflows across several organizations and departments at Yale with varying levels of data expertise & familiarity
- To meet the needs of researchers who wish to:
  - Follow and inform disciplinary best practices
  - Meet funder, university, or contract requirements

To accomplish these goals, we've taken considerable steps to form a cohesive unit across departments including:
  - Training sessions on research data management best practices to establish a shared baseline of knowledge and vocabulary
  - Discussion of consultations within the group
  - Meetings throughout the year which take a case-study based approach and work through consultation scenarios

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Future projects for RDCG include:
1. Expanding education and training offerings for
   1. Library, ITS, teaching and learning support staff
   2. Departmental staff
   3. Yale students, faculty, postdocs, and other researchers
2. Continuing efforts to clarify and support university and other requirements for data management, sharing, and preservation
3. Engaging with researchers on implementing solutions in accordance with forthcoming university policies regarding research data management and retention
4. Creating a community of practice for research data support staff and managers
5. Creating opportunities for additional library departments to contribute to RDM efforts

## REFERENCES

Research Data at Yale http://researchdata.yale.edu

Yale University Strategic Agenda for Research Support http://guides.library.yale.edu/escienceinstitute

Photos courtesy https://campusphotos.yale.edu/

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