

Scientific Data Preservation

Karl Benedict

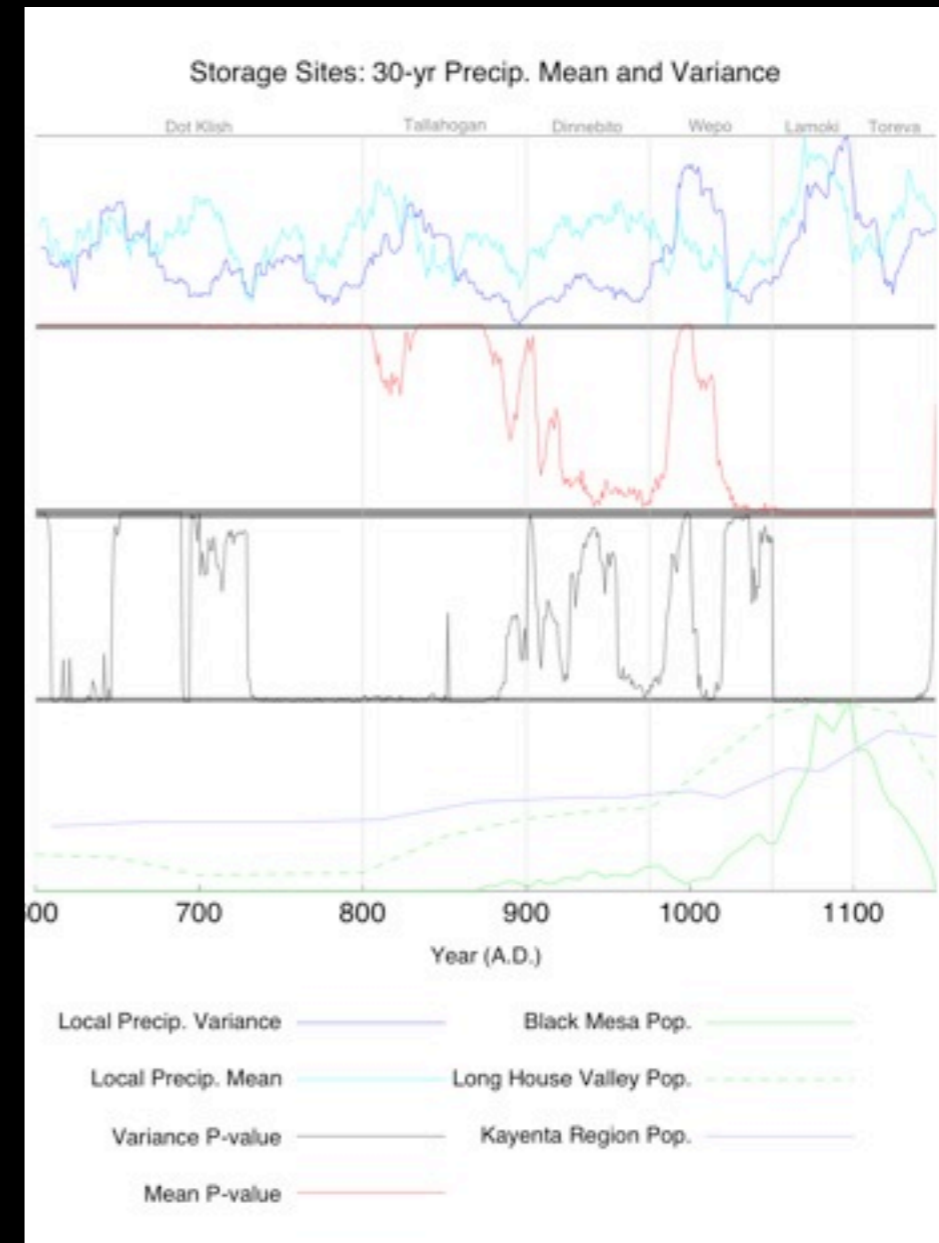
EDAC, University Libraries, Dept. of Geography
University of New Mexico

Why Me?

- Earth Data Analysis Center
- University Libraries
- Geography Department
- Federation of Earth Science Information Partners
- Foundation for Earth Science

A Story

- Dissertation work with two large data collections from the late-60s through early 80s
- Over 2200 archaeological sites, paleoclimate and modern meteorological data, publicly available environmental data
- Focus on data integration and modeling - not feasible without well documented data in understandable and usable formats



Roadmap

- Core principles
- Strategies
- Resources

Core Principles

- Data quality/safety
 - During research
 - Following research
- Documentation
 - Discovery
 - Use
 - Understanding
- Sustainability
 - Data and metadata formats/standards



Data Quality and Safety

I learn with great satisfaction that you are about committing to the press the valuable historical and State papers you have been so long collecting. Time and accident are committing daily havoc on the originals deposited in our public offices. The late war has done the work of centuries in this business. The last cannot be recovered, but let us save what remains; not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident.



Letter to Ebenezer Hazard
Philadelphia, 2/18/1791.
Thomas Jefferson

Documentation



Data creators will provide sufficient metadata (defined as all the information necessary for data to be independently understood by users and to ensure proper stewardship of the data) to the data repositories responsible for long-term archival.

- Interagency Data Stewardship Guidelines. <http://commons.esipfed.org/node/419>

Sustainability



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Seven sustainability factors



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1. Disclosure. Degree to which complete specifications and tools for validating technical integrity exist and are accessible to those creating and sustaining digital content. A spectrum of disclosure levels can be observed for digital formats. What is most significant is not approval by a recognized standards body, but the existence of complete documentation.



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7. Technical Protection Mechanisms. Implementation of mechanisms such as encryption that prevent the preservation of content by a trusted repository.



Dataset Considerations

Significant for all datasets is that they be represented in a structure that reveals the characteristics of individual data items and the relationships among them. A dataset format suitable for preservation must retain the syntactical integrity of both the structure and individual values, so that automated analysis is possible. Also essential for future usability is an understanding of the semantics of the data elements and their relationships within the dataset. The semantics may be described explicitly within the dataset, described explicitly in an ancillary document (preferably itself machine-processable), or implicit through compliance with a community best practice or external specification.

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represented in a structure

relationships

syntactical integrity

structure

individual values

understanding of the semantics

Strategies

Preservation Resources



- Use existing individual resources
- Leverage existing shared resources
- Acquire new individual or shared resources
- Use commodity/hosted (e.g. cloud) resources

Use Existing Resources

- Pros
 - Little if any initial cost
 - Resources already well understood
- Cons
 - Potential lack of alignment with preservation needs
 - May be insufficient for long-term



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/27784972@N07/>

Shared Resources



- Pros
 - May be able to better use underutilized resource
 - Resource is a known commodity
- Cons
 - Resource decisions are shared
 - Potential contention for resource as it is consumed

Acquire New Resources

- Pros
 - Resources can be specified for need
 - Growth may be built into resource planning
- Cons
 - Requires expenditure of funds
 - Adequate funds may not be available for acquisition
 - New resource may have related costs (i.e. labor, administration)



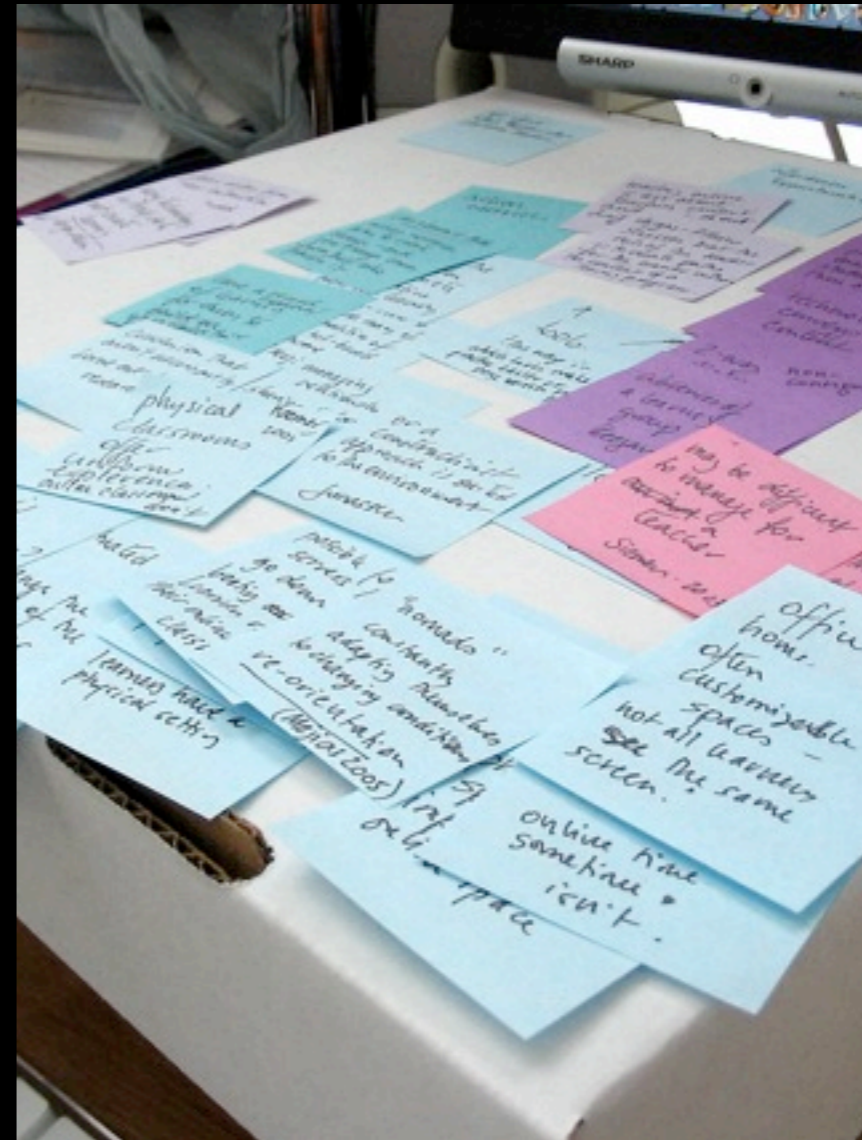
Hosted Resources

- Pros
 - Cost can scale with demand/need
 - Local administrative and infrastructure costs can be reduced
- Cons
 - Reduced control over data
 - Risk of provider going out of business
 - May not exactly match needs

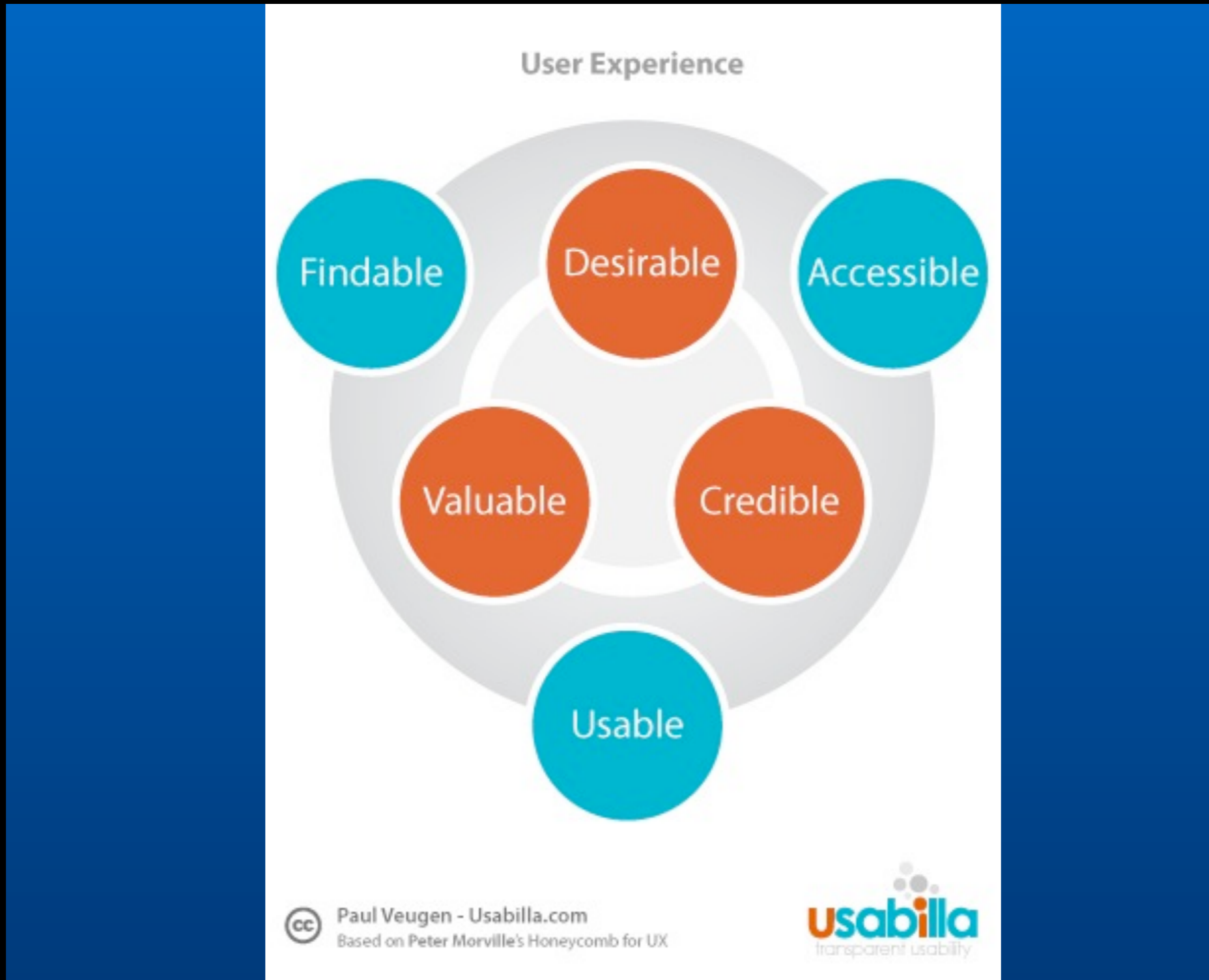


Documentation

- Start Early
- Elements to Record
 - Who
 - Where
 - When
 - What
 - Why
 - How
- Know target documentation content standard at start to ensure coverage



Format Selection



Resources

- UNM LoboVault / UNM Libraries data curators
- UNM Research Storage Consortium
- NM Resource Geographic Information System / NM EPSCoR
- DataONE Member Node(s), OneShare
- Community Repositories
- Further Reading



UNM LoboVault & Data Curators

UNM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

University Libraries » Research Guides » Digital Data Management, Curation and Archiving

Digital Data Management, Curation and Archiving

A guide primarily geared toward researchers and data librarians.

Last Updated: May 9, 2012 | URL: <http://libguides.unm.edu/data> | [Print Guide](#) | [RSS Updates](#) | [SHARE](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#)

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Download the [SPARC Author Addendum](#) to help negotiate copyright with publishers.

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Welcome

Welcome to the Data Management, Curation and Archiving Research Guide. This guide is intended primarily for researchers and data librarians to facilitate the management, sharing and archiving of their data. This guide covers a rapidly changing large and complex topic.

We will regularly update, correct and add information and tools to the guide. Please let us know if you do not find what you need, feel that some information or concepts are incorrect, or want to add information from your field of research. Also, you may want to check back periodically for updates.

As research data librarians, we are here to help you:

- Create data management plans for grant proposals
- Manage, curate and archive your data.
- Maximize the usefulness of your data.
- Increase the lifespan of your data.
- Manage sharing of your data.
- Prepare your data for archiving.
- Collaborate with you in creating innovative new ways to share your data.

This Research Guide should give you the necessary background and tools to better manage your data. We also hope it will help you in understanding what supporting information (**metadata**) will help increase the usability, understandability and longevity of your data.

Please do not hesitate to contact the research data librarian specializing in your field of research for more information or assistance.

Comments (0)

Ask a Librarian
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Subject Guide



Robert Glendorf



Contact Info

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Engineering Library MSC05 3020
University Libraries
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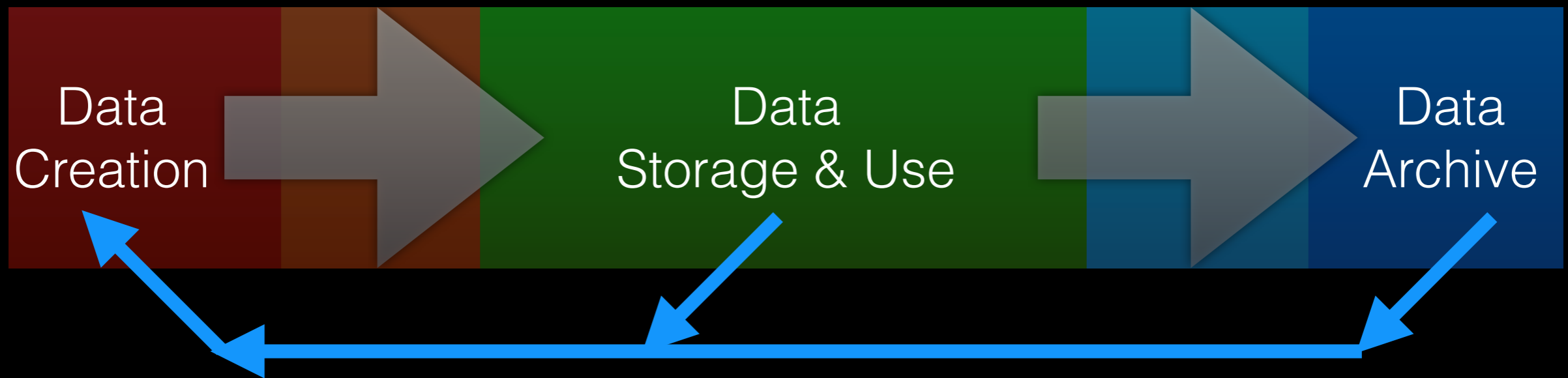
Subjects:

Computer Science, Math, Statistics,
Research Data Librarian for the
Natural Sciences, Engineering,
Computer Sciences and Math

<http://libguides.unm.edu/data>

<http://repository.unm.edu>

UNM Research Storage Consortium



NM RGIS & EPSCoR Data Portals

The screenshot shows the homepage of the RGIS program. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, FAQ, Feedback, User Guide, Glossary, Web Services, Order Help, and Get Data. Below the menu is a search bar with the text "Quick search by title" and "and by place". A "Browse for Data" button is visible. The main content area features a "Welcome to the RGIS Clearinghouse" section, followed by a description of the program and two search options: "Browse for Data" and "Advanced Spatial Search (new)". A sidebar on the left contains a "New Mexico RGIS nmrgis" section with several news items and a Twitter icon at the bottom.

<http://rgis.unm.edu>

The screenshot displays the New Mexico EPSCoR Data Portal. The header includes the EPSCoR logo and the title "Climate Change Impacts on New Mexico's Mountain Sources of Water". A navigation menu contains links for Home, About NM EPSCoR, Science Focus, Education & Outreach, For Researchers, Data Portal, and Conferences. The "Data Portal" section is highlighted. A sidebar on the left lists various resources: About NM EPSCoR, Science Focus, Education & Outreach, For Researchers, Data Portal, Browse Data, Spatial Search, Users Guide, Web Services, REST API, and User Survey. The main content area features a "Data Portal" section with an image of a water tower and a map, followed by a detailed description of the portal's purpose and a list of available tools. A search bar is located at the bottom of the main content area. The footer includes social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and a mailing list, along with a disclaimer and contact information.

<http://nmepscor.org/dataportal>

DataONE

The screenshot shows the DataONE website homepage. At the top left is the DataONE logo. To its right is a search bar with 'ONEMercury' entered and a 'Go' button. Further right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and RSS. The main content area features a large banner with a silhouette of a person and a blue box labeled 'Member Node'. Below this is a section titled 'Depositing Data into DataONE'. To the right of the banner is a 'ONE Mercury' search tool interface with a red banner that says 'Click to Search'. Below the search tool is a 'Safety Data Challenge' banner featuring a construction worker and a 'SAFETY FIRST' sign. A 'Latest News' section contains two news items: 'Blog interview on Open Science - http://bit.ly/MDh63t Posted: 08/9/2012' and 'First Public Participation in Scientific Research Conference underw...'. Below the news is a navigation menu with five columns: 'About', 'Participate', 'Resources', 'Education', and 'Data'. Each column lists various links and resources. At the bottom, there is a footer with a paragraph about DataONE's funding and a contact information line.

DataONE Search For

Member Node

Depositing Data into DataONE

ONE Mercury
A DataONE Search Tool for Scientific Data
Click to Search

Safety Data Challenge
SAFETY FIRST
data.gov/safety

Latest News | Blog interview on Open Science - <http://bit.ly/MDh63t> Posted: 08/9/2012 | First Public Participation in Scientific Research Conference underw...

About
What is DataONE?
DataONE Organization
Working Groups
Partners
Communication
Videos
Contact Us

Participate
DataONE Users Group
Member Nodes
Internships
Developer Resources
Open Positions
Events Calendar

Resources
Investigator Toolkit
Data Management Planning
Best Practices
Software Tools Catalog
Publications

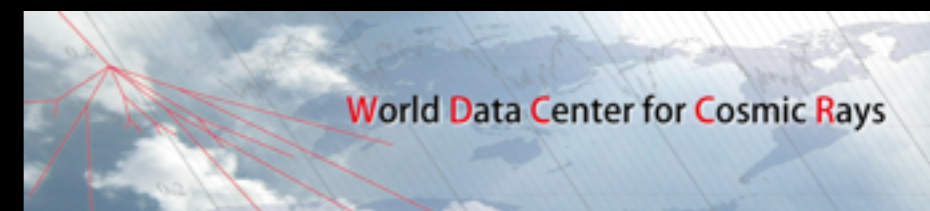
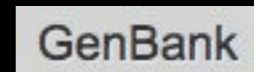
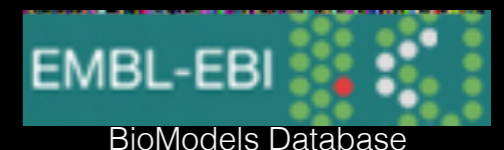
Education
Training Activities
Education Modules
Graduate Courses

Data
Find
Contribute
Cite
Use
Data Holdings
Safety Data Challenge

DataONE is a collaboration among many partner organizations, and is funded by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) under a Cooperative Agreement.
1312 Basehart Dr SE 1 University of New Mexico Albuquerque, NM 87106 [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)

<http://www.dataone.org/>

Community Repositories



Check out Databib for a list of over 300 repositories:

<http://databib.org/index.php>

Additional Background Material

- ESIP Federation *Interagency Data Stewardship Guidelines*
<http://commons.esipfed.org/node/419>
- ESIP Federation *Data Citation Guidelines for Data Providers and Archives*
<http://commons.esipfed.org/node/308>
- Library of Congress *Sustainability of Digital Formats Planning for Library of Congress Collections*
<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/formats/index.shtml>
- UNM Libraries *Digital Data Management, Curation and Archiving Research Guide*
<http://libguides.unm.edu/data>
- DataONE *Best Practices database*
<http://www.dataone.org/best-practices>



Questions?