

The Emerging Research Data Management Landscape

What Arts-Based Researchers in Art Education Need to Know

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**Emergence 2022
The Canadian Society for Education through Art
& The Ontario Art Education Association
Ottawa, Ontario
15/10/2022**

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What We'll Cover

- 1. Overview of the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy**
 - Focus on its data management plan (DMP) requirement and the implications this requirement has for arts-based researchers
- 2. Overview of the DMP template for arts-based research that James and I co-created**
 - A resource that can help arts-based researchers comply with the DMP requirement of the Tri-Agency policy
- 3. Address two benefits of DMPs for arts-based researchers**
 - Highlight DMPs have value beyond meeting a policy requirement

Definitions

Research Data Management (RDM)

- “The processes applied through the lifecycle of a research project to guide the collection, documentation, storage, sharing and preservation of research data.” (Government of Canada, 2021a, Section 1d, para. 1)

Data Management Plan (DMP)

- “A formal statement describing how research data will be managed and documented throughout a research project and the terms regarding the subsequent deposit of the data with a data repository for long-term management and preservation.” (Committee on Data, n.d.)

The Tri-Agency Policy: Key Points

- Released in March 2021 by Canada's three federal funding agencies for academic research (e.g., SSHRC) and being implemented gradually
- Sets RDM standards for research institutions and researchers in Canada
 - RDM standards are intended to apply across disciplines, but the policy also recognizes that RDM standards vary by discipline
- Applies to research institutions and researchers holding agency funds

The Tri-Agency Policy: Key Points

- Indirectly affects researchers without agency funds because research institutions across Canada have based their RDM strategies and policies on the Tri-Agency policy

Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy

(Government of Canada, 2021b)

**Institutional
Strategy**

**Data
Management
Plans**

**Data
Deposit**

The DMP Requirement: Key Points

- Grant proposals to some funding opportunities **must** have DMPs, which will be evaluated (Government of Canada, 2021b)
- First SSHRC funding opportunity subject to the DMP requirement was announced in June 2022 (Government of Canada, 2022)
 - Partnership Grants – Stage 2 (summer 2023 competition)
- More will be added in the coming years
- Best RDM practices **should** be incorporated into any grant proposal submitted to SSHRC (Government of Canada, 2021b)

The Policy: What a DMP Should Contain

All DMPs should address

- “how data will be collected, documented, formatted, protected and preserved”
- “how existing datasets will be used and what new data will be created over the course of the research project”
- “whether and how data will be shared”
- “where data will be deposited”

The Policy: What a DMP Should Contain

DMPs should also

- “indicate who is responsible for managing the project’s data”
- “describe the succession plans in place should that person leave the research team”
- “identify the data-related roles and responsibilities of other team members where appropriate”
- “outline ethical, legal and commercial constraints the data are subject to, and methodological considerations that support or preclude data sharing”

(Government of Canada, 2021b, Section 3.2, para. 3)

Arts-Based Research DMP Template

(Lévesque & Doiron, 2021)

**Data
Collection**

Metadata

**Sharing &
Reuse**

**Storage, Backup,
& Access**

**Responsibilities &
Resources**

Preservation

**Ethics & Legal
Compliance**

Arts-Based Research DMP Template

- Walks arts-based researchers through the creation of a DMP
- 29 questions across the 7 sections that are accompanied by guidance, examples, and links to additional resources
- Content of the template aligns with what the Tri-Agency policy expects researchers to cover in their DMPs
- Free and available in French and English
- Can be downloaded as a PDF or accessed in the DMP Assistant



**Data
Collection**

Data Collection

- 1. What types of data will you create and/or collect? What methods, arts-based and otherwise, will you use?**
 - Artworks and information on artistic processes are data

Data Collection

2. Do you plan to use datasets published by others? Where will you collect them from?

- Describe data published by other researchers or artists that you will use
- Common sources: data repositories, government agencies, universities, journal publishers
- But also: exhibition catalogues, gallery archives, zine or comics collections

Data Collection

- 3. How will you digitally document artwork, artistic processes, and other non-digital data? What conditions, hardware, software, and skills will you need?**
 - Reasons for digitalizing artwork and other data (e.g., artwork is a physical object; return artwork to participants; deposit data is a funding condition)
 - Considerations for high quality documentation of artwork and other data (e.g., good lighting, video editing program)

Data Collection

- 4. What file formats will your data be created and/or collected in?**
- Open (non-proprietary) file formats are preferred
 - Proprietary file formats: industry-standard formats or ones that can be converted to open file formats are preferred
 - Arts-based researchers may need to use proprietary file formats
 - They have special capabilities for creating and editing images, audio, video, and text (e.g., Photoshop file)

Data Collection

5. What practices will you use to structure, name, and version-control your files?

- Data organization practices for clear, consistent, and logical labelling and tracking of information
 - Folder structures (e.g., Data Collection > Participant Artwork > Participant)
 - File names with version markers (e.g., AnalysisPoem_IV05_ **v03**.doc)

The Benefits of DMPs

When collaboration is a goal of arts-based research

- DMPs help you anticipate and navigate who owns artwork and how ownership affects the sharing and reuse of artwork as data
- For example, you need to determine what constitutes **appropriate** sharing and reuse of artwork when
 - Co-creating artwork (e.g., with participants, other artists)
 - Creating artwork in partnership with groups, organizations, or communities

The Benefits of DMPs

When arts-based research aims to have an audience and impact beyond the research community

- Publishing data is a way to make it visible to the public, which is important when you want to influence policy, practice, and social change
- Proactively devising a strategy for how arts educators, artists, activists, and other members of the public will find and access your data will help
 - Expand the number of people who may apply the knowledge you created
 - Extend the influence of your project long after it was completed

The Takeaway

Arts-based researchers will need to write DMPs for certain SSHRC funding opportunities in the near future and, perhaps, to comply with the RDM policies of their local research institutions.

The arts-based research DMP template is a resource that can help them with this task.

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