Introduction

Welcome to the Research Data Management modules created and supported by the University Libraries in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research. This series of four modules will walk you through the most important aspects of research data management, from writing a data management plan for a grant application to publishing and archiving your data after a project is complete.

Why is data management so important that you should take the time to complete these four modules? First and foremost, data is now being recognized as a valuable research product and many funding agencies are requiring researchers to submit a data management plan alongside their grant application. In fact, data management mandates go beyond pre-award planning to include the process of implementing the plan. Second, the benefits of data management are not limited to meeting funder requirements; best practices in data management will help you save time and increase research efficiency and productivity throughout the project.

Each of these modules will provide you with helpful information for writing and implementing your data management plans.

After the first module, Writing a data management plan, you will be able to identify features of a data management plan.

At the end of the second module, A Practical Approach to Data Management, you will be able to utilize useful tools and services to assist with data management plan writing, data organization, documentation, and security.

After the third module, you will be able to locate data management and curation services provided by the University Libraries across the research and data lifecycles.

The fourth module, Publishing Dataset at Virginia Tech, will introduce you to institutional repositories, VTech Works and VTech Data, that you will be able to utilize at project completion and that satisfy the funder or data management requirements.

As you complete each module, you may want to meet with a data consultant or curator in the University Libraries in order to discuss application of data management techniques, skills, and practices to your research. They may be contacted at dmpreveiw@vt.edu.