Caring for Data

Public Engagement, Scholarship, & Data Refuge

Bethany Wiggin

University of Pennsylvania

Penn Program in
Environmental Humanities

PENN COMPACT 2020: BUILDING ON A DECADE OF PROGRESS

"Penn Compact 2020 builds on the past decade of progress we have made in advancing the University of Pennsylvania. It is a far-reaching vision that outlines next steps to increase access to Penn's exceptional intellectual resources; integrate knowledge across academic disciplines with emphasis on innovative understanding and discovery; and engage locally, nationally, and globally to bring the benefits of Penn's research, teaching, and service to individuals and communities at home and around the world."

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What is Engaged Scholarship?
What are Environmental Humanities?

Environmental Humanities (EH) proceeds from the recognition that the human species is powerfully re-making earth's systems. EH thus integrates study of cultures and values (the humanities) with what has been understood to be the domain of the environment (the sciences) in order both to understand and to address the grand challenges we face today, including human-caused climate change.

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“To indicate the direction of the argument, I want to show that while the Enlightenment profited largely from the disposition of a very powerful descriptive tool, that of **matters of fact**, which were excellent for *debunking* quite a lot of beliefs, powers, and illusions, it found itself totally disarmed once matters of fact, in turn, were eaten up by the same debunking impetus. After that, the lights of the Enlightenment were slowly turned off, and some sort of darkness appears to have fallen on campuses. My question is thus: Can we devise another powerful descriptive tool that deals this time with **matters of concern** and whose import then will no longer be to debunk but **to protect and to care**, as Donna Haraway would put it?”

Bruno Latour, “From Matters of Fact to Matters of Concern” (2003)

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“Concentrating on “care” and “concern” allows us to make “visible neglected activities we want to see more ‘valued’—for instance, as ‘productive’ activities with an economic worth that should be recognized.”

Maria Puig de la Bellacasa, *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More than Human Worlds* (2017)

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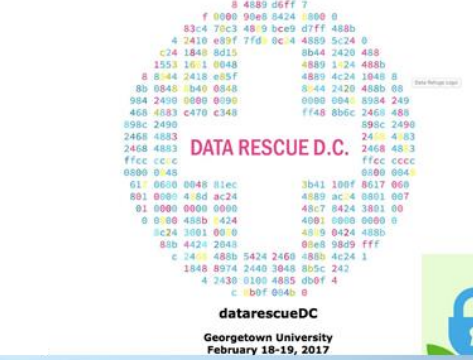
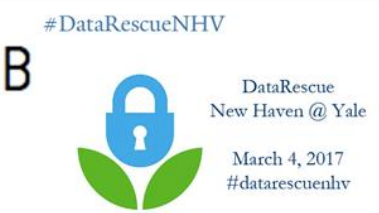
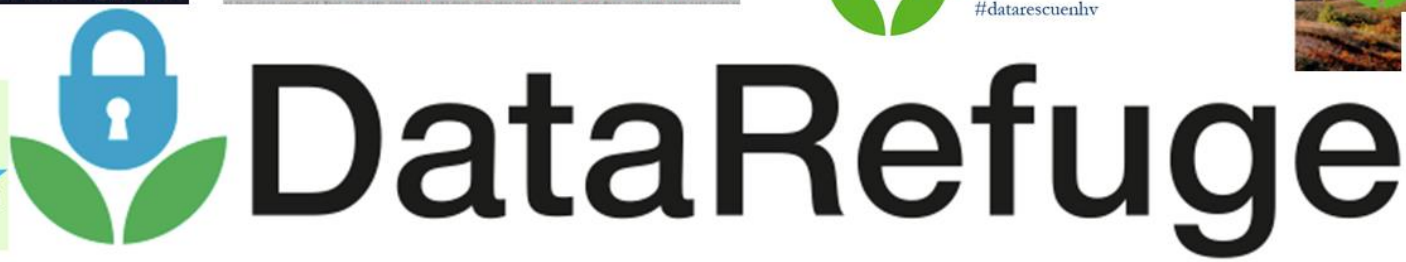
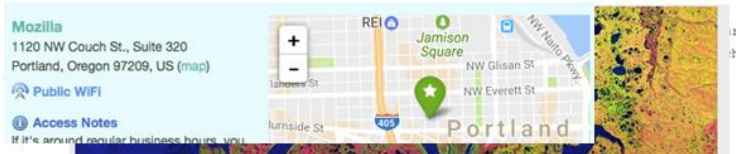






In conversation with many partners, such as you, we can build refuge for federal climate an
vulner the fact of ongoing climate change. We are co
ge works to preserve the facts we all need.



data rescue // ann arbor

MEET THE DATARESCUERS- PART 1

JANUARY 14, 2017

KAUSHIK RAMU AND NAOMI WALTHAM-SMITH

Two hours into Day 2 of #datarefuge. Who are the people, #datarescuers, who've so generously volunteered for this project of archival? Here's a byte each from some seeders and sorters:

Bhairevi Aiyer

Bhairevi is a Masters student in the Environmental Science program at Penn. She grew up in Hyderabad, India, speaks Tamil, and listens to North Indian classical music. She's concerned about environmental data, and data related to waste-management, but also about oral traditions and literary sources that might have scientific value. Team: Seeding & Sorting. MOOD: *"motivated"*.

Charles Haas

Charles is a Professor of Environmental Engineering at Drexel University. Grew up in New York City and the Midwest, and is here because data's needed for sound decision-making -- but he also has in mind other kinds of loss, such as those of history's burning libraries, as in Alexandria, and imagines monasteries that might have tucked papers away in secret... Especially cares about data related to water-pollution and water-quality. Team: Seeding & Sorting. MOOD: *"apprehensive"*.

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Bethany Wiggin @bwiggerson · Feb 4

#Storytellers @samivishi + #Alyssa @ #DataRescueNYC working on a template w @DataRefuge 2 research & write stories to being data to life👏💚👏

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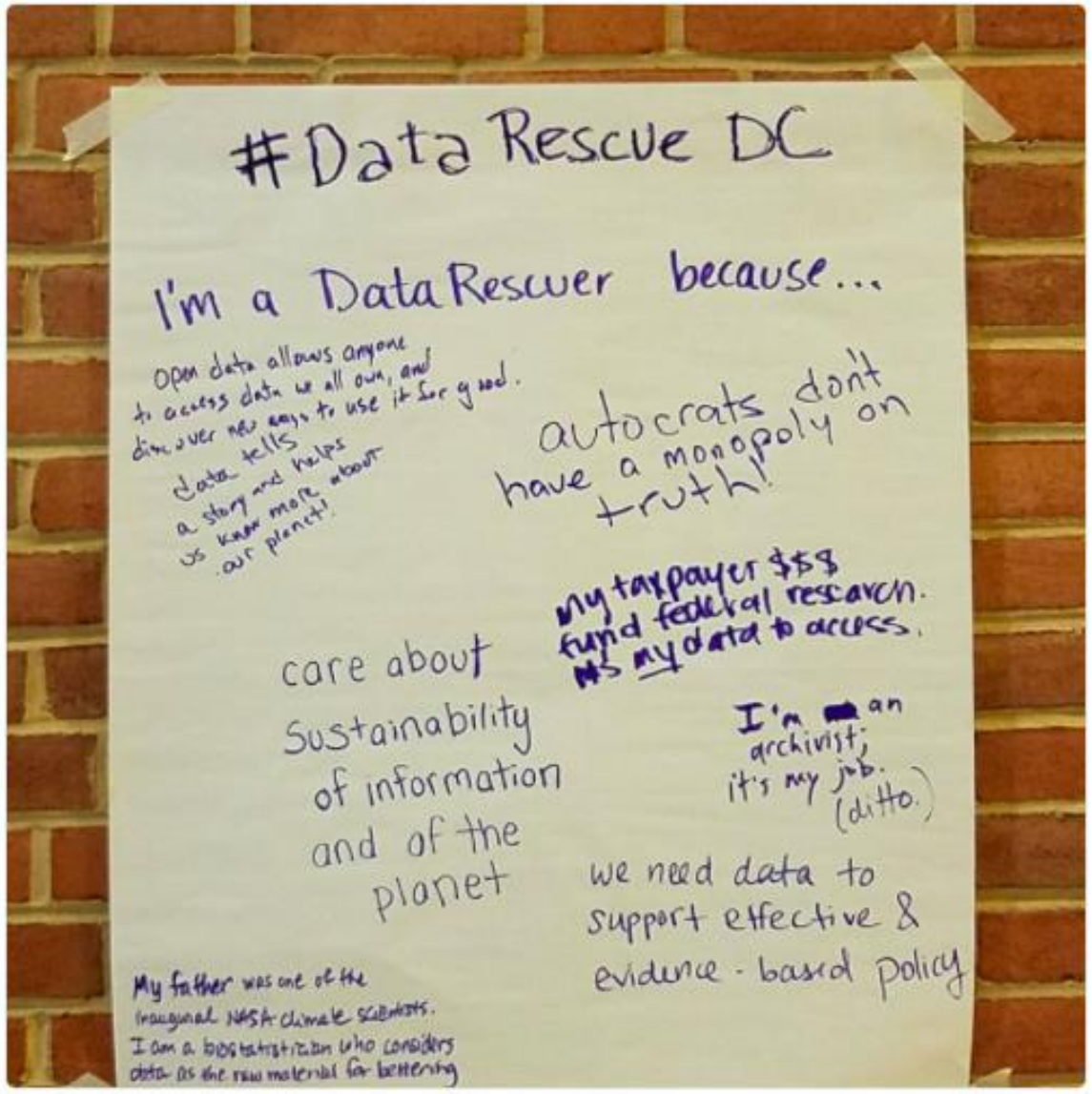
You Retweeted

Kate Madison @MissKateMadison · Feb 19

I am a data rescuer because (this one is my favorite!)...#datarescueDC @DataRefuge



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Bethany Wiggin @bwiggerson · Feb 16

This otherwise anon handwritten note arrived via snail mail to All #DataRescuers building @DataRefuge. Thanks, Lisa in #Portland (OR) ❤️🙌❤️

Dear Data Rescuers,

Thank you for all the time, talent, and hard work you've put into protecting and preserving climate data. You are inspirations, climate heroes, and quality information champions.

Sincerely,
Lisa

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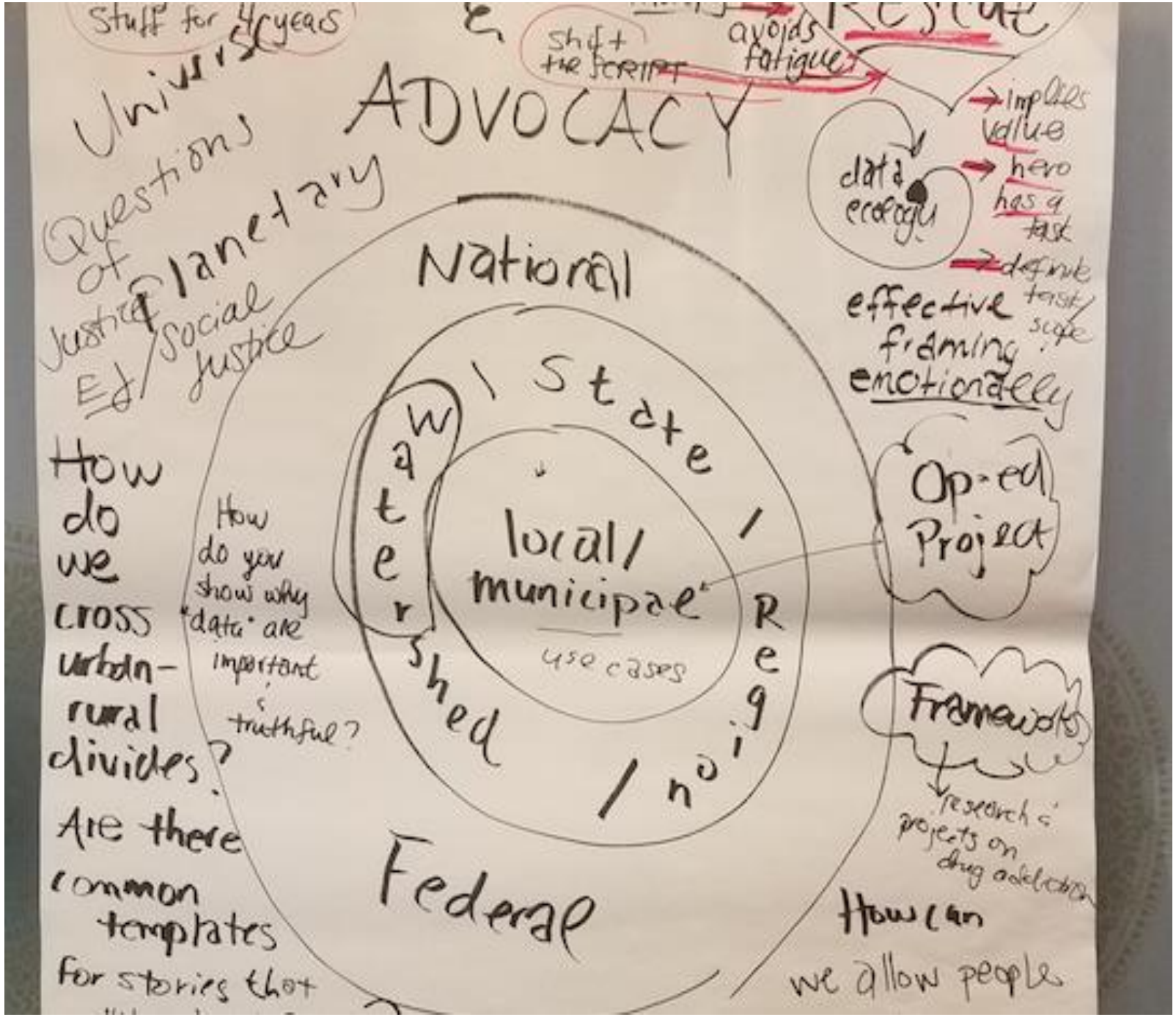
Discussion Group about Data Refuge Storytelling & Advocacy

Meeting hosted by Social Sciences Research Council

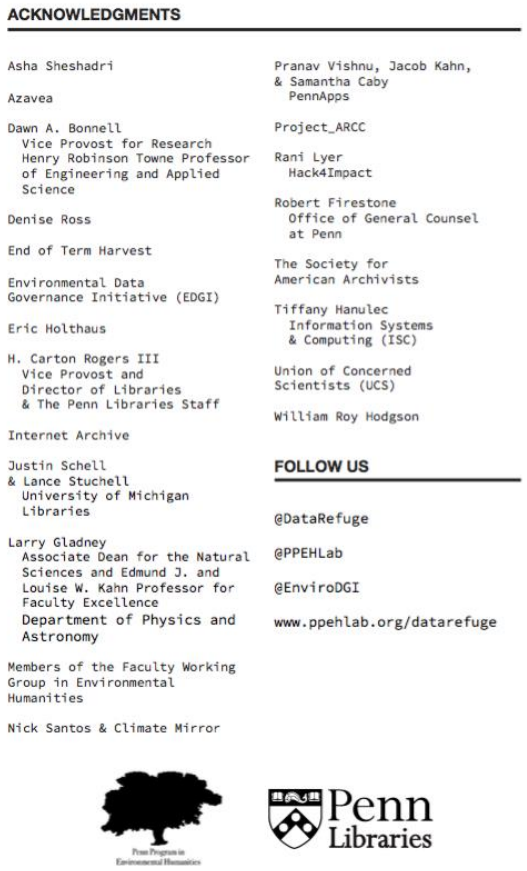
New York, 4/21/17

Photo Credit: Penelope Weber



“Libraries have been in the business of collecting and preserving information in all forms since the beginning of recorded history. So it is right and appropriate that we should be standing with you and your colleagues in this particular preservation effort.”

H. Carton Rogers III, email to Bethany Wiggin, January 7, 2017



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Asha Sheshadri

Azavea

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Denise Ross

End of Term Harvest

Environmental Data Governance Initiative (EDGI)

Eric Holthaus

H. Carton Rogers III
Vice Provost and Director of Libraries
& The Penn Libraries Staff

Internet Archive

Justin Schell
& Lance Stuchell
University of Michigan Libraries

Larry Gladney
Associate Dean for the Natural Sciences and Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Professor for Faculty Excellence
Department of Physics and Astronomy

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Project_ARCC

Rani Lyer
Hack4Impact

Robert Firestone
Office of General Counsel at Penn

The Society for American Archivists

Tiffany Hanulec
Information Systems & Computing (ISC)

Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)

William Roy Hodgson

FOLLOW US

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www.ppehlab.org/datarefuge

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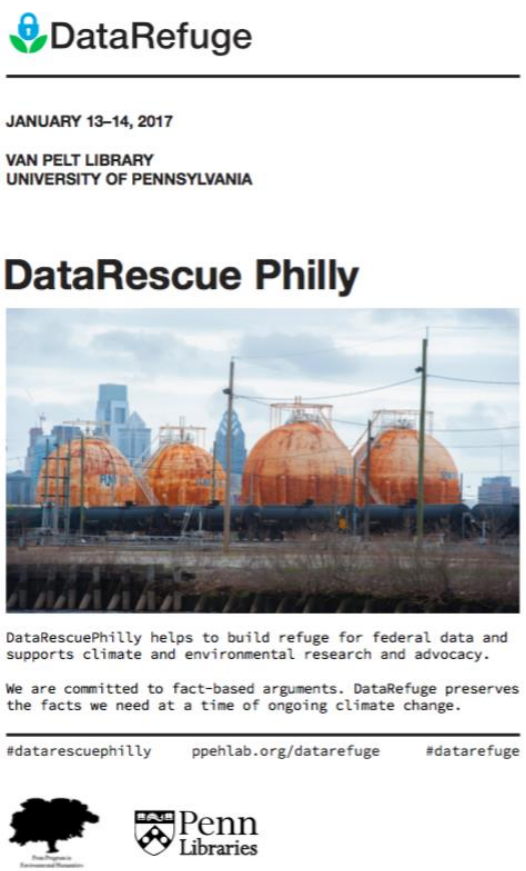

DataRefuge

JANUARY 13–14, 2017

VAN PELT LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

DataRescue Philly

DataRescuePhilly helps to build refuge for federal data and supports climate and environmental research and advocacy.

We are committed to fact-based arguments. DataRefuge preserves the facts we need at a time of ongoing climate change.

#datarescuephilly ppehlab.org/datarefuge #datarefuge

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Bethany Wiggin
@bwiggerson

With all 🙌👏🙌 on deck @upennlib @kimeke @librlaurie, @DataRefuge is OPEN @PPEHLab ❤️

RETWEETS 5 LIKES 13

Margaret Janz, Patricia Kim, Laurie Allen, and Bethany Wiggin

(Some of) The Women of Data Refuge

Photo taken in the hours after DataRescuePhilly, January 14, 2017

Caring is hard work

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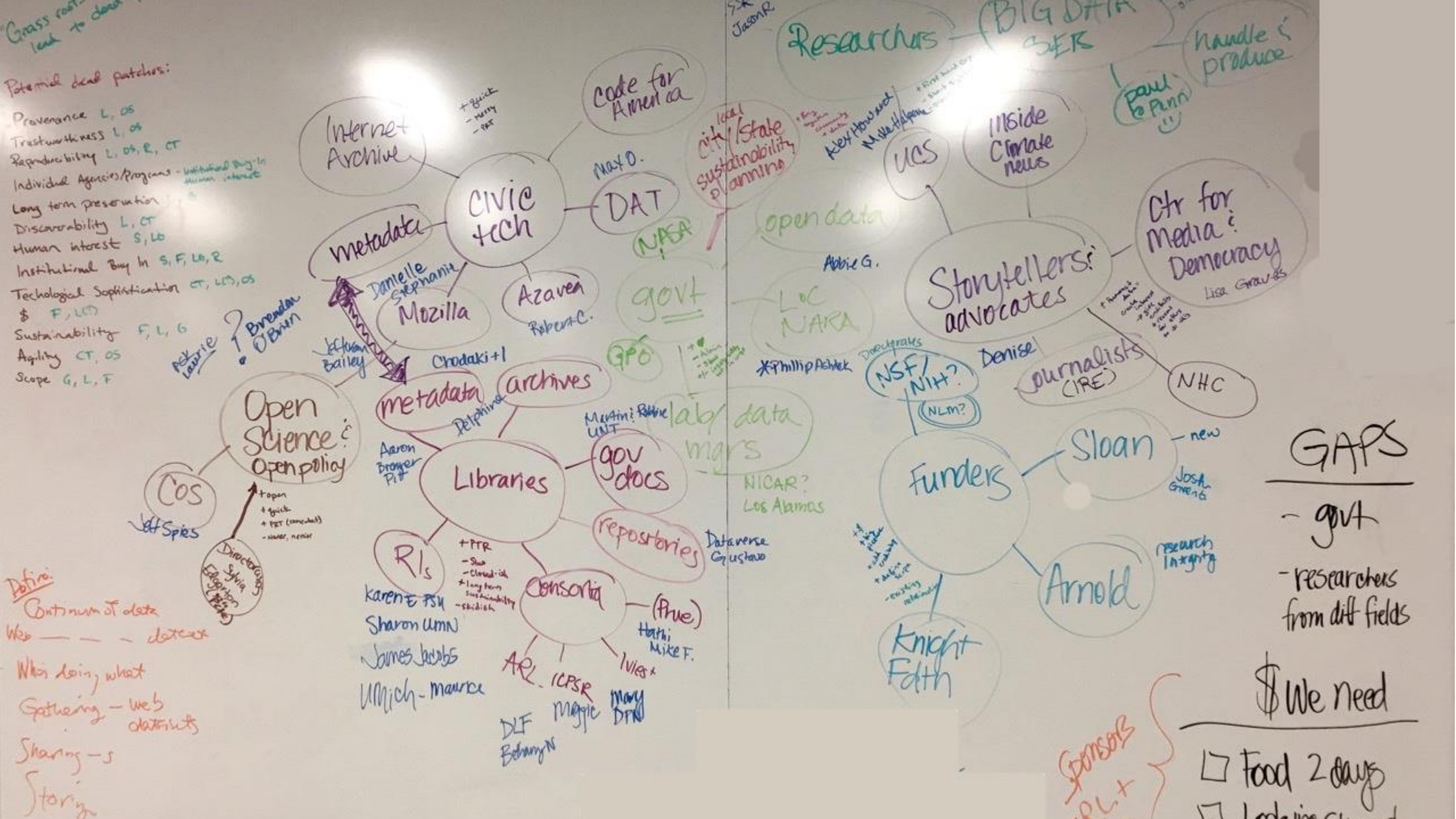
Potential dead patches:
Provenance L, OS
Trustworthiness L, OS
Reproducibility L, OS, R, CT
Individual Agencies/Programs
Long term preservation
Discoverability L, CT
Human interest S, LO
Institutional Buy In S, F, LO, R
Techological Sophistication CT, LO, OS
$ F, LO
Sustainability F, L, G
Agility CT, OS
Scope G, L, F
Internet Archive
Code for America
CIVIC tech
metadata
DAT
Mozilla
Azavea
Open Science & Open policy
COS
Jeff Spies
Libraries
metadata
archives
gov docs
repositories
RIs
Consortia
(True)
Karen E PSU
Sharon UMN
James Jacobs
UMich - Maurice
ARL
ICPSR
Maggie
DLF
Bethany N
Mary DPN
Hathi
Mike F.
Ivies
Aaron Brager Pitt
Micah Altman
Dataverse
Gustavo
Def'n:
Continuum of data
Who doing what
Gathering – web
Sharing – s
Researchers
BIG DATA
SER
Handle & produce
Paul & Fenn
UCS
Inside Climate News
open data
Storytellers/ advocates
Ctr for Media & Democracy
Lisa Graves
Abbie G.
LOC
NARA
Phillip Ashlock
NSF/ NIH?
NLM?
Denise
journalists (IRE)
NHC
Funders
Sloan
new
Josh Greenberg
Arnold
research integrity
Knight
Edith
GAPS
- govt
- researchers from diff fields
$ We need
Food 2 days

The meeting will have representatives from the following organizations:

- AP Trust
- Association of Research Libraries
- Azevea
- California Digital Library
- Center for Open Science
- data.gov
- Dataverse
- Digital Library Federation
- DPN
- Government Publishing Office
- HathiTrust
- ICPSR
- Internet Archive
- IRE
- Johns Hopkins University
- Library of Congress
- Mozilla Foundation
- National Humanities Center Library
- National Archives and Records Administration
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- New America Foundation
- New York University
- Penn State
- Sloan Foundation
- Social Science Research Council
- Society for American Archivists
- SPARC
- Stanford Libraries
- Sunlight Foundation
- Temple University Libraries
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- University of California-Davis
- University of Maryland Libraries
- University of Michigan Libraries
- University of Minnesota
- University of North Texas
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- Virginia Tech

DataRefuge is excited to be expanding our efforts and bringing in institutions, but we remain committed to supporting individuals who want to get involved in this project at any level. We also continue to support the amazing work of DataRefuge Storytellers.

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“Concentrating on “care” and “concern” allows us to make “visible neglected activities we want to see more ‘valued’—for instance, as ‘productive’ activities with an economic worth that should be recognized.”

Maria Puig de la Bellacasa, *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More than Human Worlds* (2017)

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

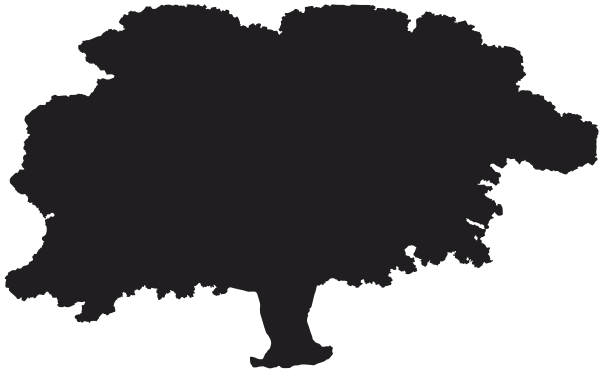
Committee for Research & Exploration

April 10, 2017

GRANT #CP-046E-17
Dr. Bethany Wiggin
University of Pennsylvania
Program in Environmental Humanities
255 S. 36th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Dr. Wiggin:

I am pleased to advise that the Committee for Research and Exploration of the National Geographic Society has authorized a grant of $30,000.00 in support of your proposed project "Data Refuge Storytelling: Three Stories in Our Town."



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Tell us what you think! Take the Libraries+ Network survey!

LIBRARIES+ NETWORK

Libraries+ Network Meeting
May 8-9, 2017 - Washington, D.C.

On **May 8 and 9**, representatives from research libraries, the open data community, government agencies, researchers, and other key stakeholders will be convening in **Washington, DC** at New America to discuss and plan for the long-term preservation and access of federally produced data.