

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Consent to Take Part in a Research Study

Realities of Academic Data Sharing—Fall 2022 Researcher Survey

**Title of research study:** Realities of Academic Data Sharing

**Principal Investigator:** Jonathan Petters, Assistant Director, Data Management & Curation Services, Data Services, University Libraries, [jpetters@vt.edu](mailto:jpetters@vt.edu), 540-232-8682.

**Other study contact(s):** The principal investigator of this study is Cynthia Hudson Vitale at the Association of Research Libraries. You can contact her via email at: [cvitale@arl.org](mailto:cvitale@arl.org). Other project researchers at institutions other than Virginia Tech are found on the [project website](#).

**Key Information:** The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether or not to be a part of this study. More detailed information is listed later on in this form.

You are invited to be in a research study of the activities, services, infrastructure, and subsequent costs required to make research data publicly available. You were selected as a possible participant because you work in a unit at Virginia Tech that may potentially support researchers in work that results in public access to research data. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

This study, the [Realities of Academic Data Sharing \(RADS\) Initiative](#), is being conducted by: The Association of Research Libraries (ARL), in collaboration with investigators from Cornell University, Duke University, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Washington University in St. Louis, and Virginia Tech. The PI contact at Virginia Tech is Jonathan Petters, Assistant Director, Data Management & Curation Services, Data Services, University Libraries.

Detailed Information: The following is more detailed information about this study in addition to the information listed above.

**Who can I talk to?**

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, talk to the research team at:

- Jonathan Petters, co-PI of the RADS project and the Virginia Tech researcher - [jpetters@vt.edu](mailto:jpetters@vt.edu)
- Cynthia Hudson Vitale, PI of the RADS project at the Association of Research Libraries - [cvitale@arl.org](mailto:cvitale@arl.org)
- Shawna Taylor, RADS Project Manager at the Association of Research Libraries - [staylor@arl.org](mailto:staylor@arl.org)

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board (IRB). You may communicate with them at 540-231-3732 or [irb@vt.edu](mailto:irb@vt.edu) if:

- You have questions about your rights as a research subject
- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team
- You cannot reach the research team
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team to provide feedback about this research

### **How many people will be studied?**

We plan to include about 150 people in this research study.

The subject population will include between 20–30 institution administrators (aged at least 21 years old) who lead departments within Virginia Tech that support activities, services, or infrastructure required for public access to research data. The same survey will be sent to administrators (approximately 20–30 individuals) at each institution in our study.

### **What happens if I say yes, I want to be in this research?**

You will be asked to review information about the Realities of Academic Data Sharing study and to complete a survey. The time commitment is as follows:

- Review the Introductory/Recruitment Email: 10 minutes
- Review the Survey Is Open Email (including a PDF of the survey questions and a copy of the Informed Consent Form); the time to review depends on if questions are reviewed in advance and the Informed Consent Form is read: 5–20 minutes
- Review the Survey Is Open Email Reminder: 5 minutes
- Gather costing information before or during the survey: 10–30 minutes
- Complete the survey: 30–45 minutes

You will only interact with Virginia Tech’s RADS researcher, Jonathan Petters, via email. The survey will be completed through the Alchemer platform.

We may contact you again to request your participation in a follow up interview. As always, your participation will be voluntary and we will ask for your explicit consent to participate in any of the follow up studies. The last question on the following survey allows you to express interest or not in the follow up interview.

### **What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?**

You can leave the research at any time, for any reason, and it will not be held against you. Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with Virginia Tech, ARL, or any of the associated institutions in this study. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

If you decide to leave the research, contact the investigator so that the investigator can remove you from the participant pool list. Data will not be collected and stored as long as the survey is not

completed. If you complete the survey and later decide to remove your consent, your data will be removed from Alchemer, the survey platform, and will not be included in study analysis.

**Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me? (Detailed Risks)**

There are no known risks to participating in this study.

**What happens to the information collected for the research?**

We will make every effort to limit the use and disclosure of your personal information, including research study and medical records, only to people who have a need to review this information. We cannot promise complete confidentiality. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the IRB, Human Research Protection Program, and other authorized representatives of Virginia Tech.

Survey data that directly identifies you will be kept private and will only be shared with the research team. Research data collected in this study will be stripped of direct identifiers, such as names and email addresses, before being shared broadly with other researchers and the public. However, budget and cost information about your department that you provide may still be identifiable based on publicly available information about the university expenditures. Data may be reused by others without your additional informed consent.

**Can I be removed from the research without my OK?**

The person in charge of the research study or the sponsor can remove you from the research study without your approval. Possible reasons for removal include incomplete survey information or awareness of a project not meeting the inclusion criteria for the RADS study.

**What else do I need to know?**

This research is being funded by the National Science Foundation, NSF award #2135874.

*You may request a copy of this information to keep for your records.*

Before proceeding, please confirm your consent to participating in the survey:

- I have read the above statements and give my informed consent to participate in this survey.
- I have read the above statement and do NOT give my consent to participate in this survey (survey will immediately close).