

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAKING MADMPS WORK FOR YOU

A GUIDE FOR GRANT OFFICES



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bit.ly/mappilot

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Institutions like yours often grapple with sufficient and consistent visibility of researcher needs, compliance, and planning. DMPs are frequently incorporated into grant proposals, but it is often difficult for all related departments to access useful information. Even if accessible, they are not always updated, leaving supporting departments scrambling to provide resources or change a researcher's plans when plans are not updated, or they report something incorrectly in their plans. Machine Actionable Data Management Plans (maDMPs) offer institutions the opportunity to better coordinate, streamlining resource allocation and researcher consultation, reducing pressure on departments to accommodate ad hoc requests from researchers, and improving the workflow for updating a DMP over time.

Here's the good news. maDMPs can help achieve compliance, accountability and cost prediction, and can give other departments insight into planned and ongoing research activity. The DMP Tool, together with ARL, has worked with a number of institutions to facilitate campus integrations that can transform communications, boost efficiency, and far better support researchers at your institution. Pilot institutions have connected maDMPs through APIs to local systems and in some cases created new notification systems to better streamline DMP consultation and the allocation of resources; improve communication between departments, and even create an AI-responsive review tool for maDMPs. There are a lot of avenues for you to explore in alignment with your institution's strategic priorities.



Benefits of maDMPs for Grant Offices

01. Enhanced grant applications and compliance

Many funding agencies require or strongly encourage DMPs as part of grant applications. A well-structured DMP demonstrates a commitment to responsible data management, which can improve the chances of securing funding. DMPs help identify the resources needed for data management activities, such as storage, backup, and software, allowing grant managers to include these costs in the budget. When machine-actionable, automations and notifications can be created to ensure the correct feedback is given and resources are allocated, so that DMPs are higher quality. Funder requirements and institutional policies and guidance can also be integrated into the tool, making it easier for researchers to navigate requirements, and produce more accurate plans needing less intervention.

02. Support for researchers

Supporting departments can leverage maDMPs to provide tailored support services to researchers, including guidance on data management best practices, relevant policies, and available resources. maDMPs can provide further support in the reduction of duplicative data entry for researchers, and the creation of integrations that can automate support notifications to other departments and resource allocation.

03. Demonstrating project feasibility

A DMP showcases a clear plan for managing data throughout the research lifecycle, reassuring funders that the project is well-organized and feasible.

04. Improved data management practices

maDMPs provide a framework for organizing, storing, and accessing research data, ensuring that it can be easily found and used by researchers both within and outside the institution. DMPs outline plans for data quality control, backup, and long-term preservation, minimizing the risk of data loss or corruption. They can also facilitate data sharing and collaboration by establishing clear protocols for data access and reuse.

05. Enhanced institutional reputation and future funding

A well-executed maDMP demonstrates an institution's commitment to responsible research practices, which can enhance its reputation and attract future funding opportunities. By ensuring data is well-documented and accessible, maDMPs facilitate data validation and replication, which are crucial for advancing scientific knowledge. Well-managed data can lead to new discoveries and innovations, which can further enhance an institution's reputation and attract future funding.

06. Increased visibility and impact

By promoting data sharing and reuse, DMPs can help increase the visibility and impact of research, leading to greater recognition for researchers and the institution. maDMPs enable linkage to related works, increasing visibility and impact of research even further. They also provide administration with deeper insight into planned and ongoing activity.

Recommendations



Become an active partner

Grants Offices can be an active partner in research workflow mapping and pilot integrations, assisting other departments in gaining access to grant submissions databases, and potentially enabling them to select data management plans from a variety of grant submissions. This information can help other departments like libraries and IT work more efficiently to support grant-funded research. Extracting these can then enable qualitative analysis of the content, looking at the type of data, data standards, active storage and computation, sharing and re-use, and archiving and access. Including a representative from the Grants Office and who is knowledgeable about the campus data ecosystem and offices, and how they interact, will be particularly useful when project scoping.



Contribute to a data stewardship and compliance strategy

Contributing to or championing an institutional research data stewardship and compliance

strategy will help align research units and supporting departments, instituting a framework that accounts for variability between disciplines. In addition to supporting initiatives like institutional implementation and adoption of maDMPs, it will also help your institution align its policies to strategic priorities and core principles. Your department can be particularly helpful in mapping the downstream implications for policy making decisions. Enforcing adherence for data standards, for example, will enable systems to better support research, enable stronger funder compliance, and reduce need for resources.



Recommend including DMP support in grant applications

Accessing resources for maDMPs development and DMP support can be prohibitive. Including DMP support in grant applications can ensure that there is adequate resourcing for DMPs to be used on an ongoing basis.

Questions?

Find out more about maDMPs by visiting bit.ly/mappilot and viewing the resources created from the maDMPs Pilot. You can also ask your library about your institution's research data policies and planned or existing integrations