

# **Understanding Genetic Mechanisms of Renewal in Regular Tissue and Cancer Cells: A Data Management Case from a Ph.D. Candidate Data Producer**

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**Abstract:** OBJECTIVE: To document the challenges that a Ph.D. candidate faces as being a key producer of research in the field of cancer biology research including intellectual property rights, day-to-day practices in implementing a PI's research objective, and data management training for Ph.D. students in the sciences.

METHODS: The librarian conducted a semi-structured data interview of a Ph.D. candidate from the biology department at a research institution. The archivist transcribed the interview using a RDM planning instrument to categorize the RDM challenges. The archivist authored a case narrative to highlight the challenges a Ph.D. candidate as a key producer of research data in an organized study for use in a scientific research data management curriculum.

RESULTS: The author identified procedures, processes, and priorities of the Ph.D. candidate in looking for authorities on data management including the authorities of the PI and the IT department over the library or research services. The researcher also confused data publishing with paper publishing.

CONCLUSIONS: There are missed opportunities available for research data management training when students join a lab or institute, and also when they practice writing grants. The graduate research lifecycle model may not be as static as first proposed. Language, when talking to researchers needs to be clear, authoritative, and speak to their priorities.

## **About the author:**

*Jan Coco Day* has recently received her MLIS with a concentration in Archives Management from Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Boston, Massachusetts in May 2013. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana in 2005, and worked the intervening years between her BA and masters degrees as a bookseller and a graphic designer. She became interested in research data and digital archiving through graduate course work and looks forward to conducting research for libraries and archives in

academic or public settings. Her most recent jobs include adventures as a lone arranger for a prestigious New England sports club and a digital content manager and social media manager for a graphic design team. Her poster “Understanding Genetic Mechanisms of Renewal in Regular Tissue and Cancer Cells: A Data Management Case from a Ph.D. Candidate Data Producer” was presented at the 2013 New England e-Science Symposium in Worcester, Massachusetts. She is currently building her new home in Austin, Texas with her husband and dog.