Data Storage and Sharing: A Needs Assessment Survey of Social Science Researchers and Information Professionals for Developing a Data Management Curriculum

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Abstract: This study seeks to determine the needs of the social science research and information professional communities regarding data management training and education. The needs assessment surveys conducted in this study work towards answering three main questions: How do researchers and the information professionals who serve them understand the term "data management"? What are some of the gaps in data management knowledge of the social science and information professional communities that need to be addressed? What preferences do researchers and information professionals have in regards to data management training and education dissemination methods? An online needs assessment survey was e-mailed to 1,974 participants with a total response rate of 10.5%. The results of this study emphasize a broad understanding of the term "data management" with a focus on storage and sharing, a need for education on long-term data storage best practices and data management tools, as well as a preference for short, online video courses with an open discussion forum.

About the author:

Amanda Gooch is a soon-to-be first year PhD student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a 2013-2015 Curating Research Assets and Data using Lifecycle Education (CRADLE) Fellow working with UNC's School of Information and Library Science, the Odum Institute, and the UNC Libraries to develop an online data management curriculum for social science researchers and information professionals. Additionally, she is the Research Data Coordinator at the Odum Institute where she provides reference services and works closely with clients to archive and manage their data via the Dataverse Network. Her academic interests focus on data management, undergraduate and professional education, academic libraries, and data archiving. In her spare time she enjoys reading (mostly science fiction and fantasy), video games, and relaxing with her neurotic pets.