Partnership Building in the Social Science Data Community

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ICPSR INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
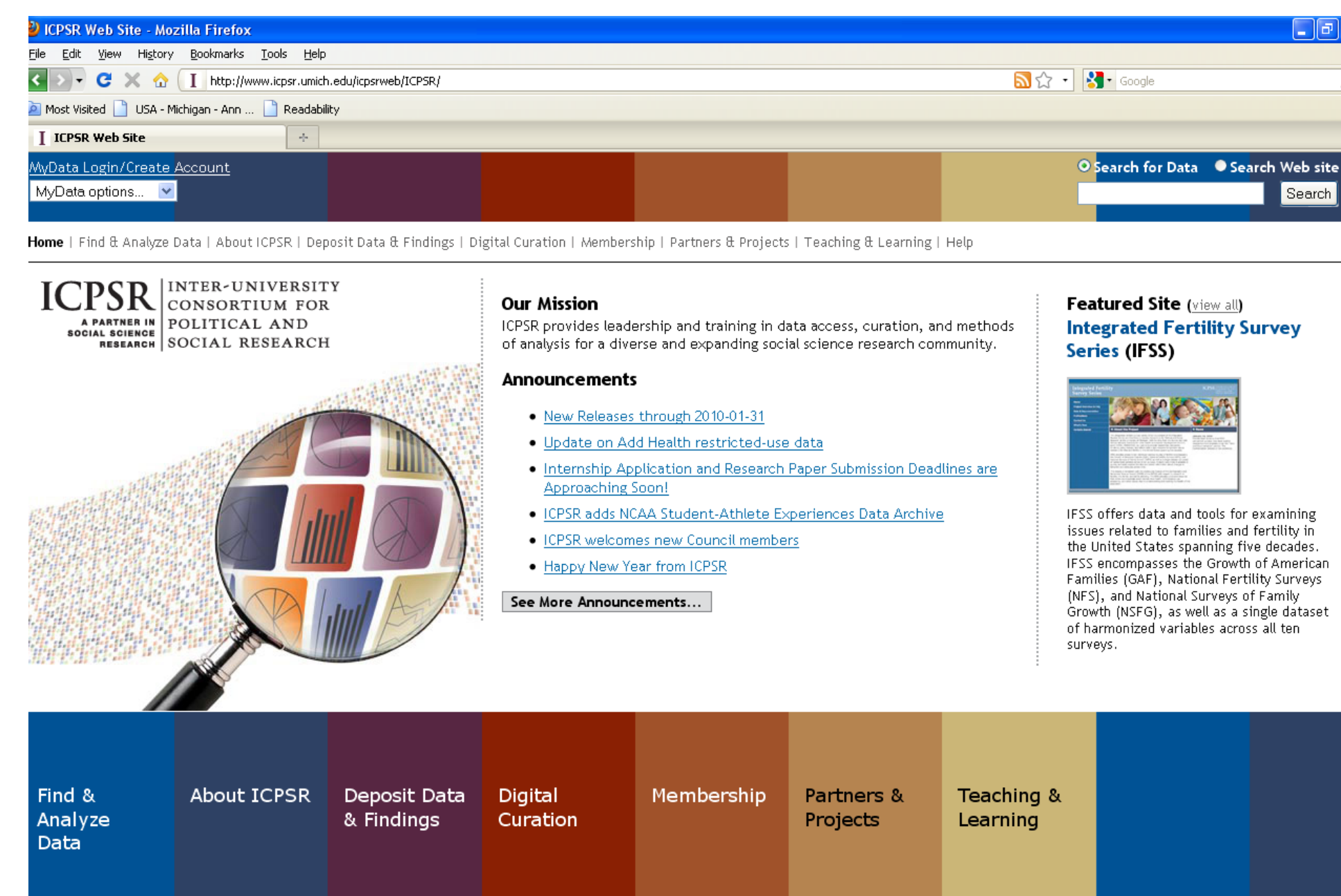A PARTNER IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

ICPSR and Building Partnerships

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) is a major archival resource of social science data for scholars in universities and research organizations worldwide.

The ICPSR collection includes over 7,000 studies with more than 500,000 files. More than two terabytes of data are downloaded from the ICPSR web site every month.

ICPSR collaborates with sponsors and research partners to widen its vast archive of social science data for research and instruction. Partnerships are increasingly essential to research success, and ICPSR is committed to developing partnerships to advance science. This poster describes three recent examples of partnership building at ICPSR.
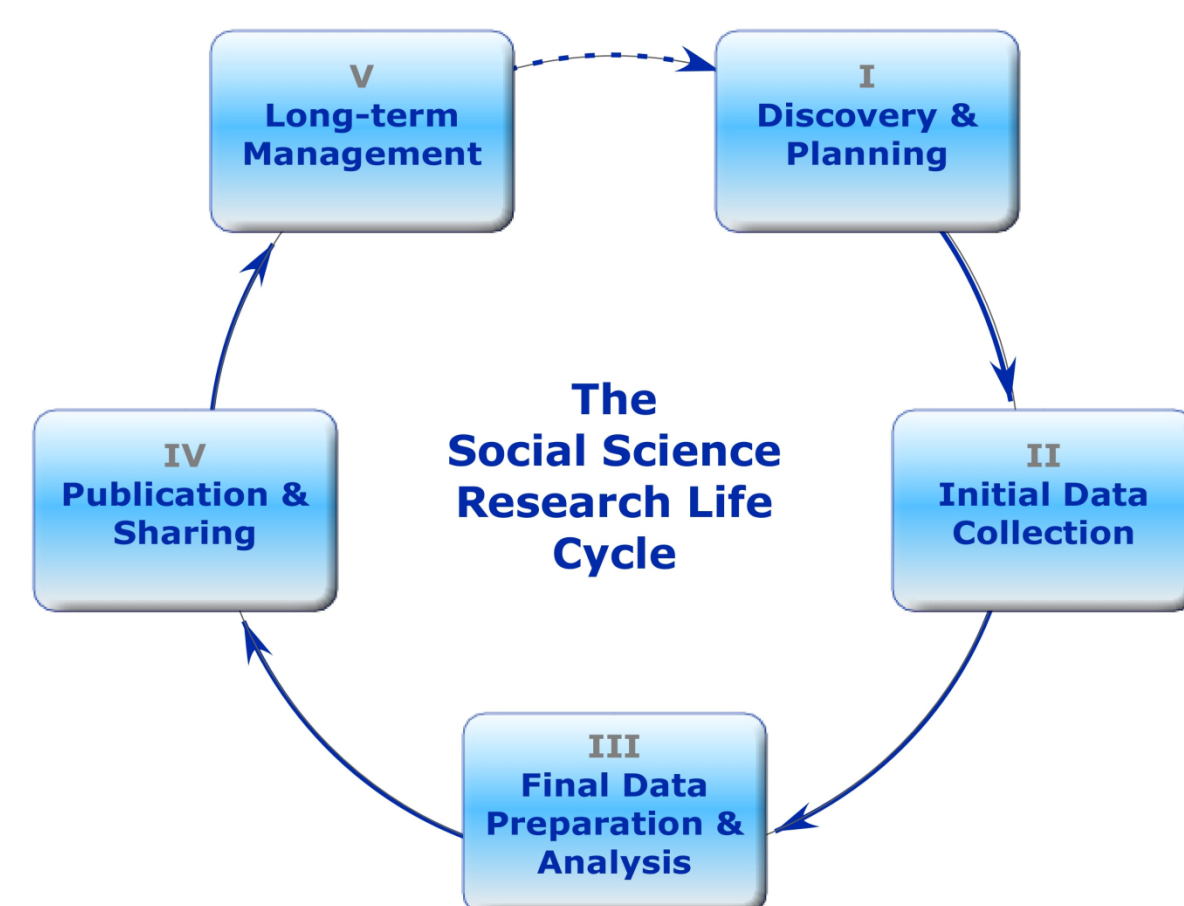
Example 1: Institutional Repositories

The first example of partnership building at ICPSR is an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) supported project to foster partnerships between domain archives and Institutional Repositories. As organizations develop their own repositories and digital archiving capacities, we are eager to develop new services to help Institutional Repositories discover, evaluate, curate, preserve, and disseminate social science data.

The three primary goals of the project include:

1. Form partnerships with Institutional Repositories to curate and archive a small number of social science datasets as pilot studies.

2. Use these experiences to develop best practices for archiving such materials, which we will publish as a guide designed for use by Institutional Repositories.

3. Identify and design services that ICPSR can offer to Institutional Repositories to assist them with specialized tasks in the archiving and dissemination of social science data.
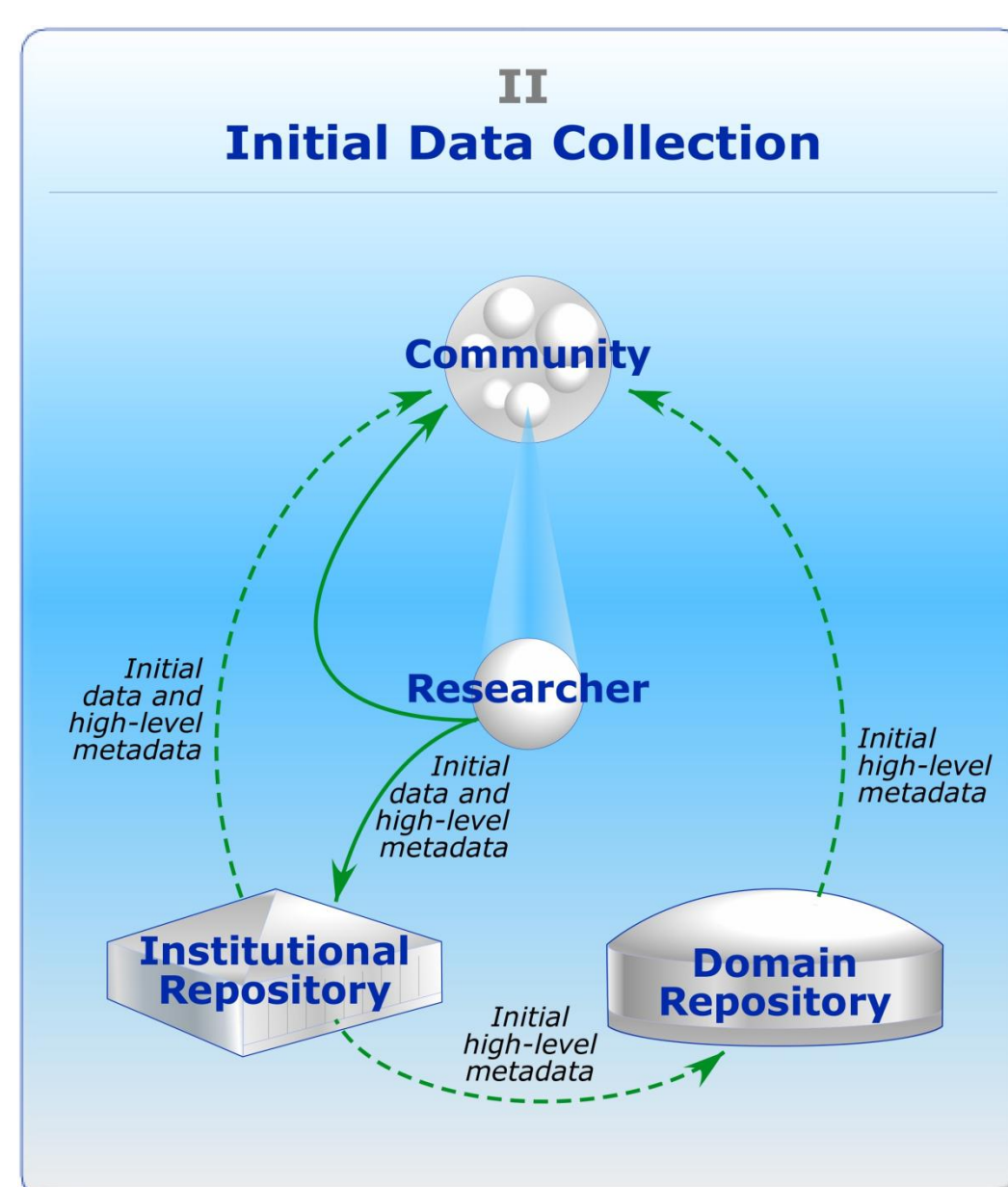
Form Partnerships with IRs

We will follow the framework outlined by Myron Gutmann and Ann Green in their article "Building Partnerships Among Social Science Researchers, Institution-based Repositories, and Domain Specific Data Archives."
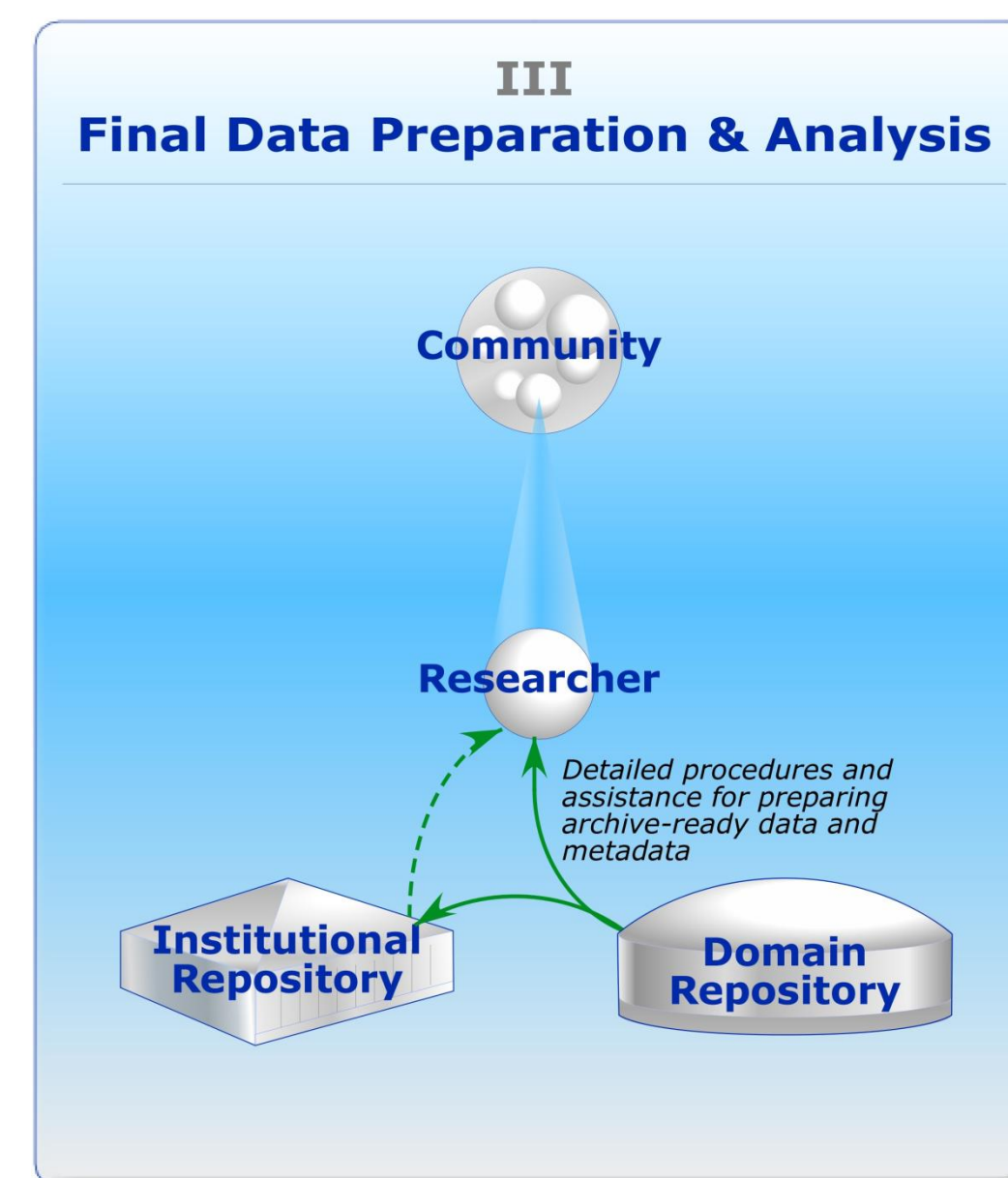

Even at the early stages, research projects can benefit from conversations with repository experts about intellectual property issues, long-term digital preservation planning, access controls, confidentiality considerations, file format options, and metadata standards.

High level metadata can be produced and passed from researchers to local repositories when initial work gets underway. This can trigger a local discussion about data processing requirements and what the research team needs to know to deposit data in IRs and with the later possibility of passing archive-ready versions of data to domain-specific repositories.
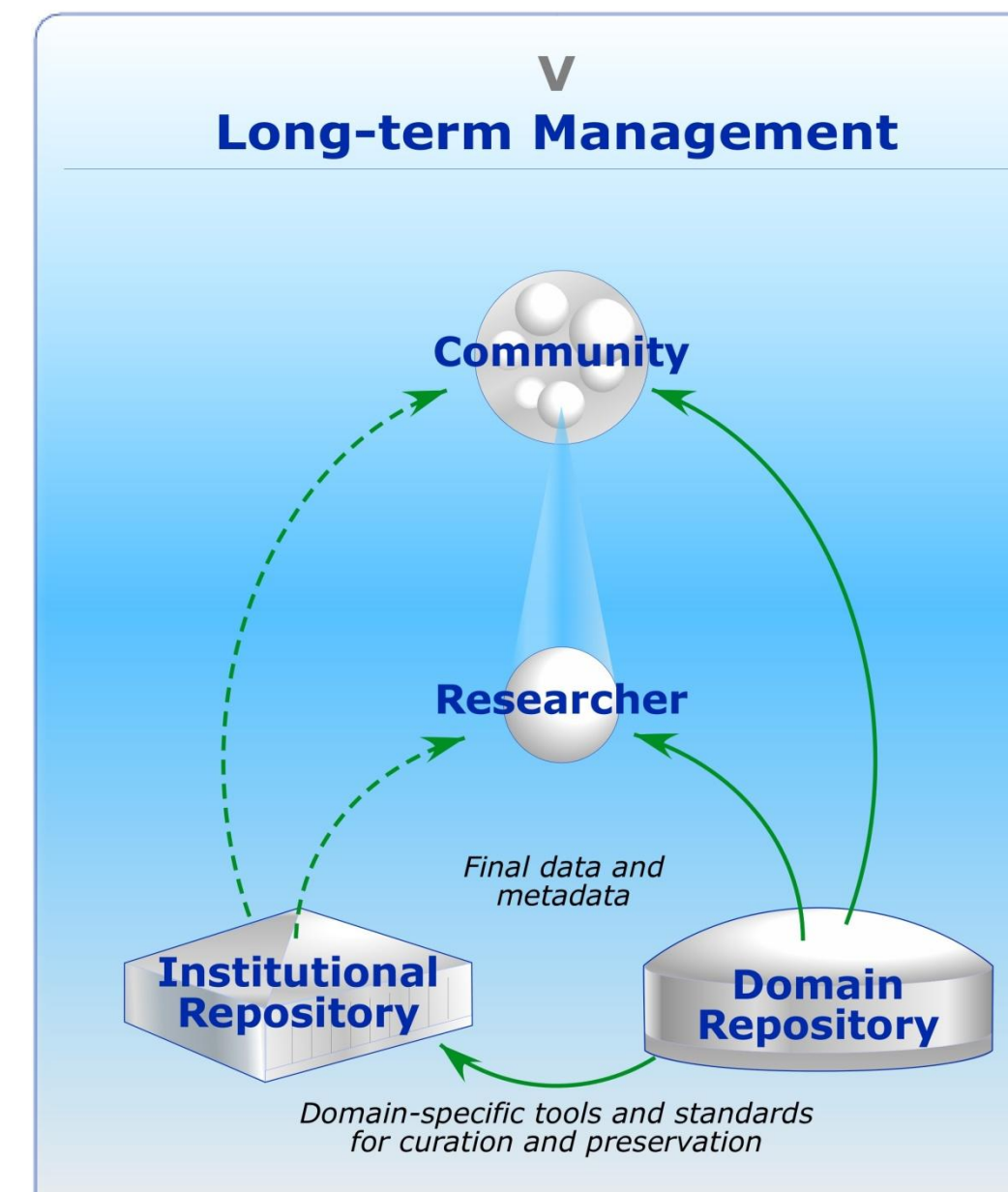

Repository experts can provide tools and support for long-term sharing and archiving, as well as guidelines for data processing and metadata production, confidentiality review, and other requirements.

When the research project is at the publication and sharing stage, the data are moved into the repositories and shared services are developed and supported.
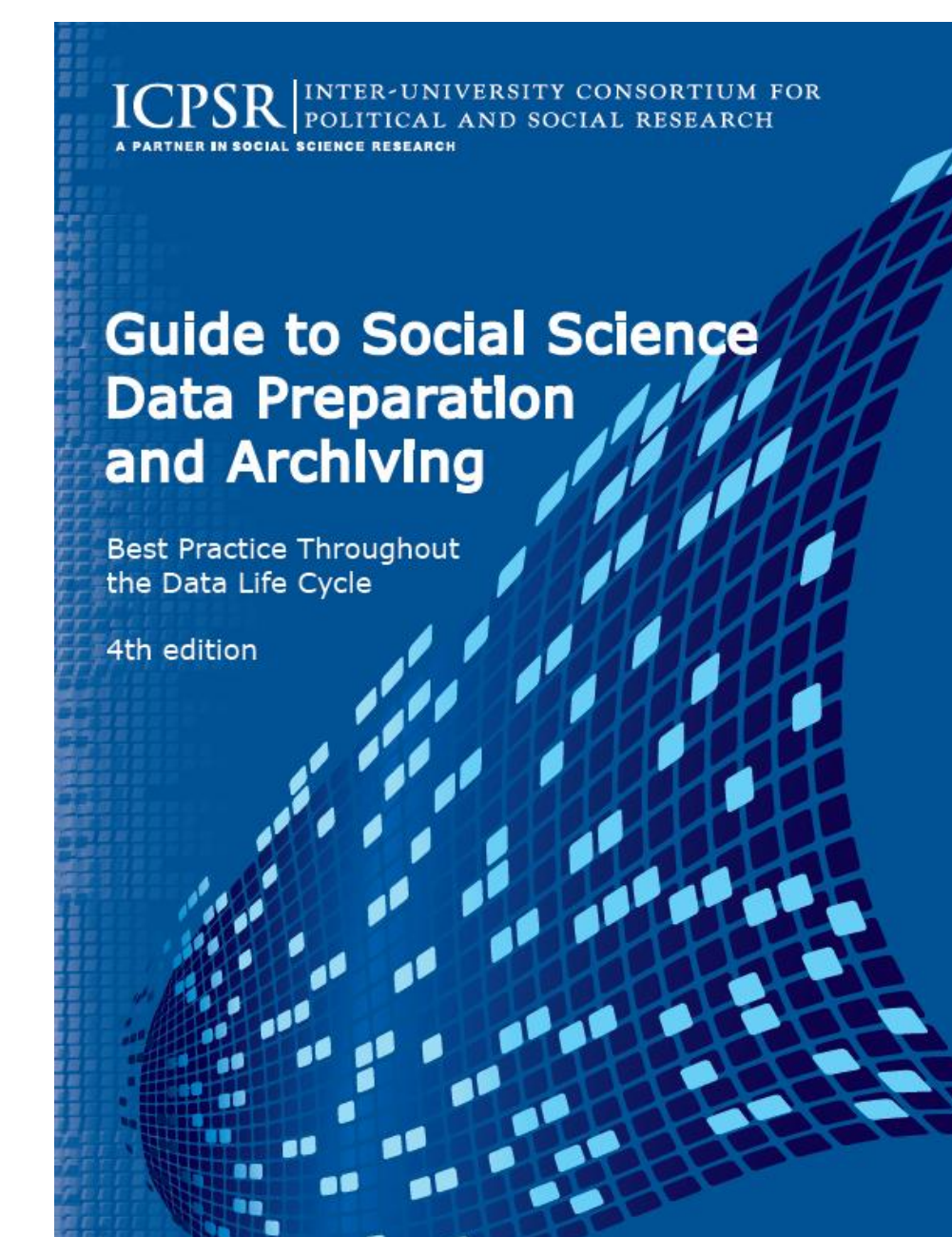

Access to and stewardship of data and metadata over the long-term are commitments made by the Domain Repository. Ongoing contributions of research and development of domain-specific tools and standards for creation and preservation are made available by the Domain Repository to Institutional Repositories and the Research Community.
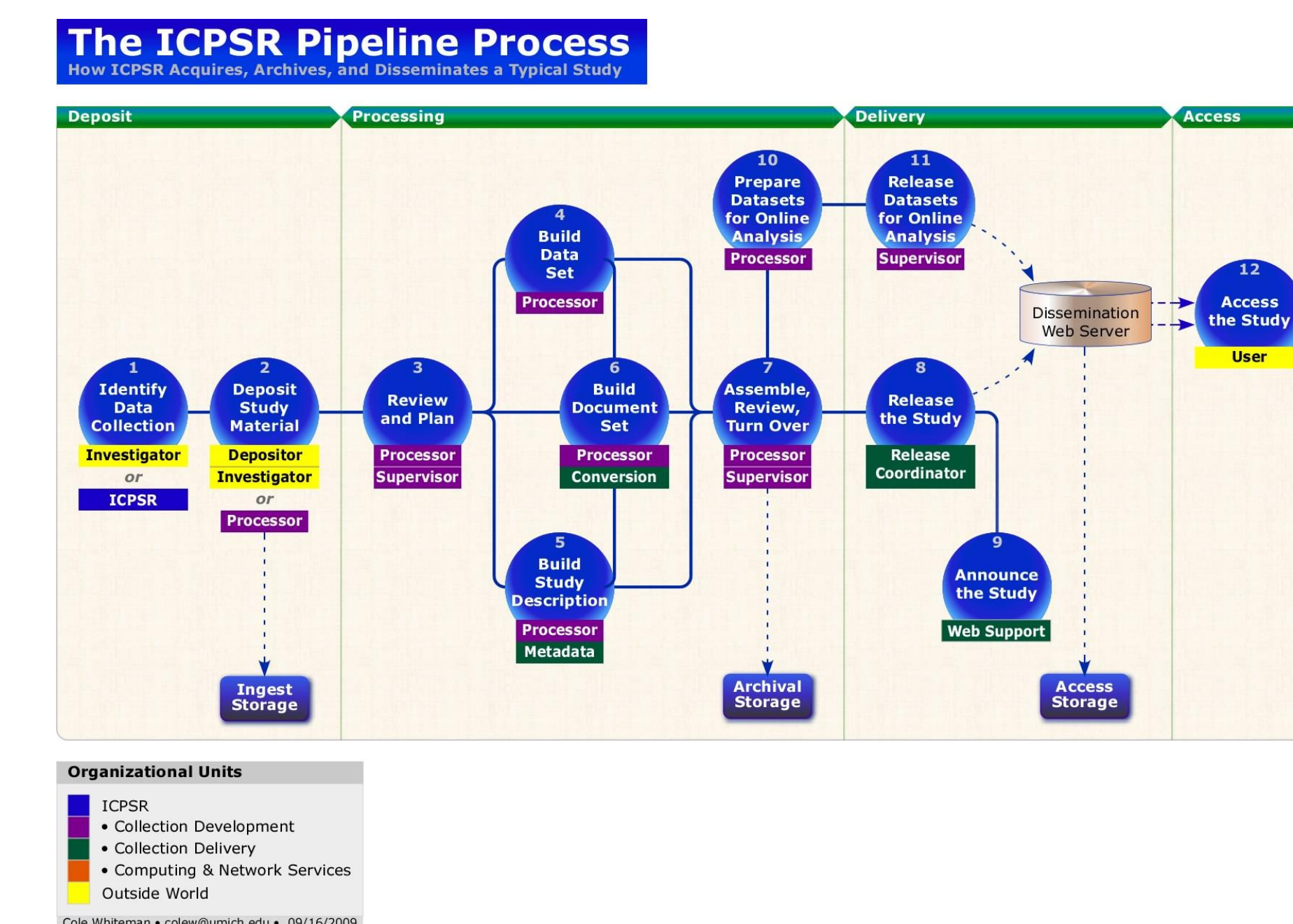

Publish Guide for IRs

There is a need for guidelines and tools to inform Institutional Repositories about best practices in archiving social science data and specialized services for unusual or complex curatorial tasks. The case studies to be processed at ICPSR will be used to develop guidelines and decision rules for Institutional Repositories at each stage of the OAIS model (Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems, 2002). ICPSR's *Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving* is an example of providing guidance to researchers.

Design Services for IRs

Institutional repositories have different capabilities and needs. We will provide a menu of services that ICPSR can provide to IRs for archiving social science data. These services may include data recovery from obsolete file formats and media, disclosure analysis, codebook validation, metadata construction and editing, management of dissemination of confidential data, or links in the ICPSR catalog to data in IRs.

For additional information:

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/IR

Example 2: Data Citation Standards

Another partnership building example at ICPSR is collaborative work to promote data citation standards. Professional associations in the social sciences are increasingly recognizing the importance of properly citing data in their publications to encourage the replication of scientific results, to improve research standards, and to give proper credit to data producers.
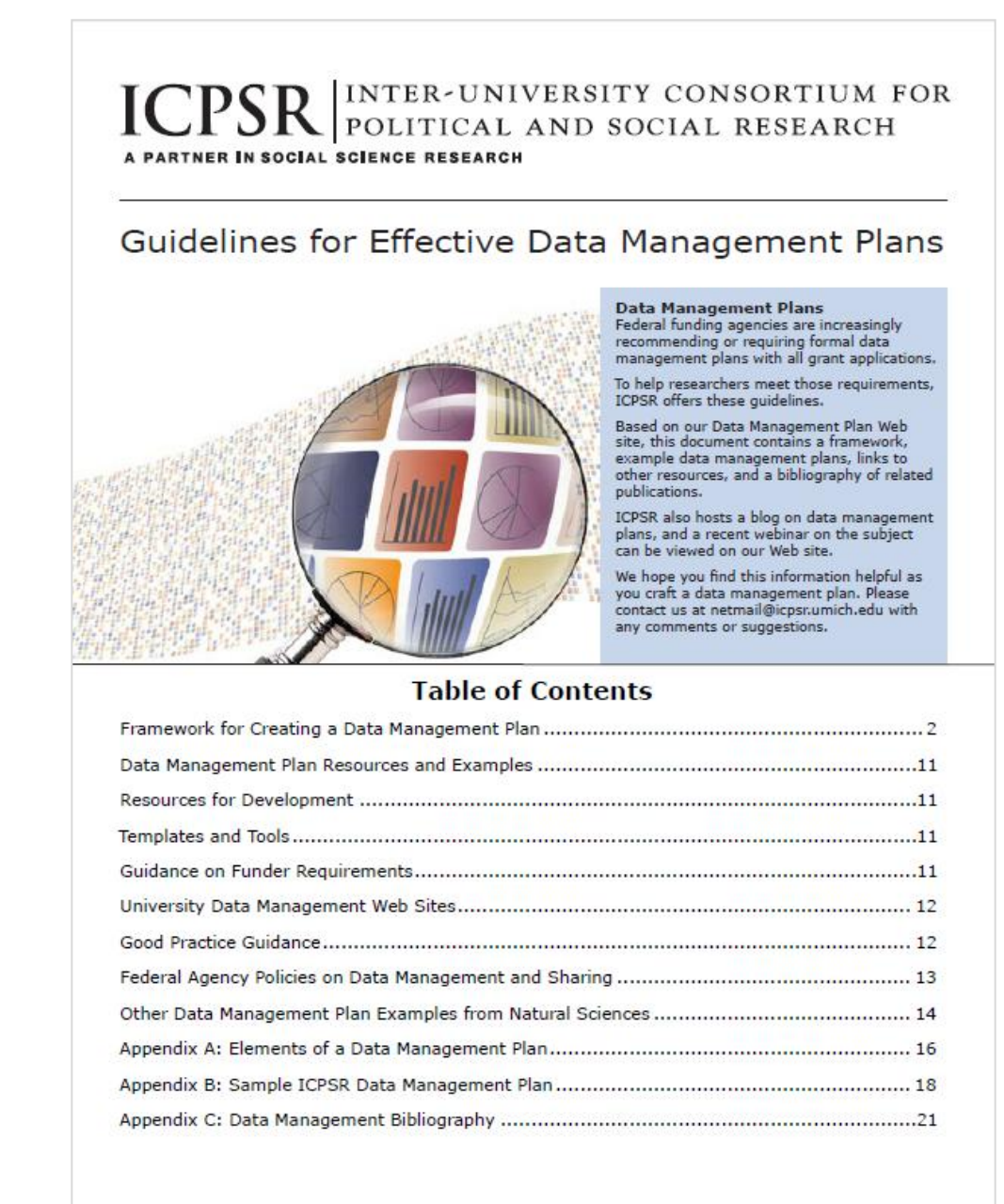
ICPSR is partnering with other organizations such as DataCite (http://datacite.org/) and the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (http://data-pass.org) to promote data citation standards.

Tangible results are being seen. For instance, the *American Sociological Review* has already adopted a set of standards for citing data after an appeal from the Data-PASS partners. For additional information:

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/DATAPASS/citations.html

Example 3: Data Management Plans

A third example of partnership building at ICPSR stems from recent requirements by many federal agencies, including NIH and most recently NSF, that grant applications contain data management plans for projects involving data collection. To support researchers in meeting these requirements, ICPSR is providing guidance on creating such plans, as well as partnering with researchers who intend to archive their data.

For additional information:

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/dmp