

NSF Data Management Plan Template

Data Management Plan Requirements

Proposals submitted or due on or after January 18, 2011, must include a supplementary document of no more than two pages labeled “**Data Management Plan**”. This supplementary document should describe how the proposal will conform to NSF policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results¹. See [Grant Proposal Guide \(GPG\) Chapter II.C.2.j](#) for full policy implementation (http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/gpg_2.jsp#dmp).

Each directorate may also have specific guidelines that address unique data management issues within the respective community. Be sure to look at the proposal details and main directorate and/or division website for additional guidelines.

Help with Your Data Management Plan

To create your Data Management Plan, go through the sections on the next page. Start by answering the questions within each section (numbered under each section description). After answering all of the questions, remove the questions, leaving just your answers. Modify the answers into prose that makes sense as a paragraph below each Roman numeral header (include the bold text as the header to each of your sections in your Data Management Plan).

¹ **Data Sharing Policy:** Investigators are expected to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the primary data, samples, physical collections and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of work under NSF grants. Grantees are expected to encourage and facilitate such sharing. See [Award & Administration Guide \(AAG\) Chapter VI.D.4](#) (http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/aag_6.jsp#VID4).

Data Management Plan

I. Types of data

Samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project.

1. What data will be generated in the research? (Give a short description, including amount – if known and the content of the data).
2. What data types will you be creating or capturing? (e.g. experimental measures, observational or qualitative, model simulation, processed etc.)
3. How will you capture or create the data?
4. If you will be using existing data, state that fact and include where you got it. What is the relationship between the data you are collecting and the existing data?

II. Data and Metadata Standards

Standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with any proposed solutions or remedies).

1. Which file formats will you use for your data, and why?
2. What contextual details (metadata) are needed to make the data you capture or collect meaningful?
3. How will you create or capture these details?
4. What form will the metadata take?
5. Which metadata standards will you use?
6. Why have you chosen particular standards and approaches for metadata and contextual documentation? (e.g. recourse to staff expertise, Open Source, accepted domain-local standards, widespread usage)

III. Policies for access and sharing and provisions for appropriate protection/privacy

1. How will you make the data available? (Resources needed: equipment, systems, expertise, etc.)
2. When will you make the data available? (Give details of any embargo periods for political/commercial/patent reasons.)
3. What is the process for gaining access to the data?
4. Will access be chargeable?
5. Does the original data collector/ creator/ principal investigator retain the right to use the data before opening it up to wider use?

Provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements;

1. Are there ethical and privacy issues?
2. If so, how will these be resolved? (e.g. anonymisation of data, institutional ethical committees, formal consent agreements.)
3. What have you done to comply with your obligations in your IRB Protocol?
4. Is the dataset covered by copyright? If so, who owns the copyright and other intellectual property?
5. How will the dataset be licensed if rights exist? (e.g. any restrictions or delays on data sharing needed to protect intellectual property, copyright or patentable data.)

IV. Policies and provisions for re-use, re-distribution

1. Will any permission restrictions need to be placed on the data?
2. Which bodies/groups are likely to be interested in the data?
3. What and who are the intended or foreseeable uses / users of the data?
4. Are there any reasons not to share or re-use data? (Suggestions: ethical, non-disclosure, etc.)

V. Plans for archiving and Preservation of access

Plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and Preservation of access to them.

1. What is the long-term strategy for maintaining, curating and archiving the data?
2. Which archive/repository/central database/ data centre have you identified as a place to deposit data?
3. What transformations will be necessary to prepare data for preservation / data sharing? (e.g. data cleaning/anonymisation where appropriate.)
4. What metadata/ documentation will be submitted alongside the data or created on deposit/ transformation in order to make the data reusable?
5. What related information will be deposited (e.g. references, reports, research papers, fonts, the original bid proposal, etc.)
6. How long will/should data be kept beyond the life of the project?
7. What procedures does your intended long-term data storage facility have in place for preservation and backup?