

THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT IS SENT ON BEHALF OF DAVID HIRSH, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, AND JAMES NEAL, VICE PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION SERVICES AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN.

NSF requires Data Management Plan for all proposals as of January 18, 2011.

Any proposal submitted to the NSF with a due date on or after January 18th must include a supplemental document outlining the plan for data management or a justification as to why there is no need for such a plan. As of January 14, 2011, FastLane will reject proposals that do not include a data management plan. If your award is due on January 18 and you plan to submit earlier, you still must include a data management plan.

Federal requirements to maintain and share data are not new, but formal documentation is a new requirement. As the Council on Government Relations Fall 2010 update indicates, “NSF suggests a plan could include: the types of data, samples, physical collections, etc., that will be produced in the course of the project; any standards to be used for data and metadata format and content; policies for access and sharing including intellectual property provisions, provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives; and plans for archiving data and for preservation of access to them. A valid plan may include only the statement that no detailed plan is needed, as long as the statement is accompanied by a clear justification.”

The NSF seems to be shying away from too much specific guidance, templates or other prescriptions in recognition of the fact that different disciplines may differ widely in their practices and expectations. Without saying so explicitly, NSF seems to recognize that this is a work-in-process and is encouraging the research community to help shape the effective implementation of this evolving issue.

You can read the policy, FAQs and further guidance from some individual directorates (Engineering, Geological Sciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences are listed as of 11/12/10) at an NSF web-site: <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp>.

The FAQs are also available here <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmpfaqs.jsp>. You will note among other comments,

- 1) that the Data Management Plans will be evaluated by the study sections
- 2) implementation costs of data management plans may be included in direct costs

Columbia University Libraries already provides a long-term archive and preservation service for small datasets under 2 GB. For NSF grants submitted after January 18, 2011, the Libraries will also provide support for larger datasets, as outlined below.

Datasets are hosted in [Academic Commons](#), the University’s institutional repository, a service of the Libraries’ [Center for Digital Research and Scholarship](#) (CDRS).

Deposit in Academic Commons provides:

- a permanent URL
- secure replicated storage (multiple copies of the data, including onsite and offsite storage)
- accurate metadata

- a globally accessible repository
- the option for contextual linking between data and published research results

In support of the NSF requirements for data management and sharing plans, Academic Commons will also accept individual files of more than 2 GB up to 50 GB for a one-time charge of \$10 per GB, payable at the time of deposit. Researchers expecting to preserve files larger than 50 GB should discuss their special needs with CDRS.

For further information on data deposits, please see the Academic Commons data FAQ (http://cdrs.columbia.edu/academiccommons/?page_id+202) or contact CDRS at info@cdrs.columbia.edu.

Sincerely,

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James G. Neal
Vice President for Research and
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