Introduction to Research Data Management

Amanda L. Whitmire
Steven Van Tuyl
OSU Libraries

GOAL:

Achievable habits for implementing data management best practices into your workflow

What are data?

Research data is:

"…the recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to **validate** research findings."

U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Circular A-110




Research data is:

"Unlike other types of information, research data are collected, observed, or created, for the **purposes of analysis to produce and validate original research results**."

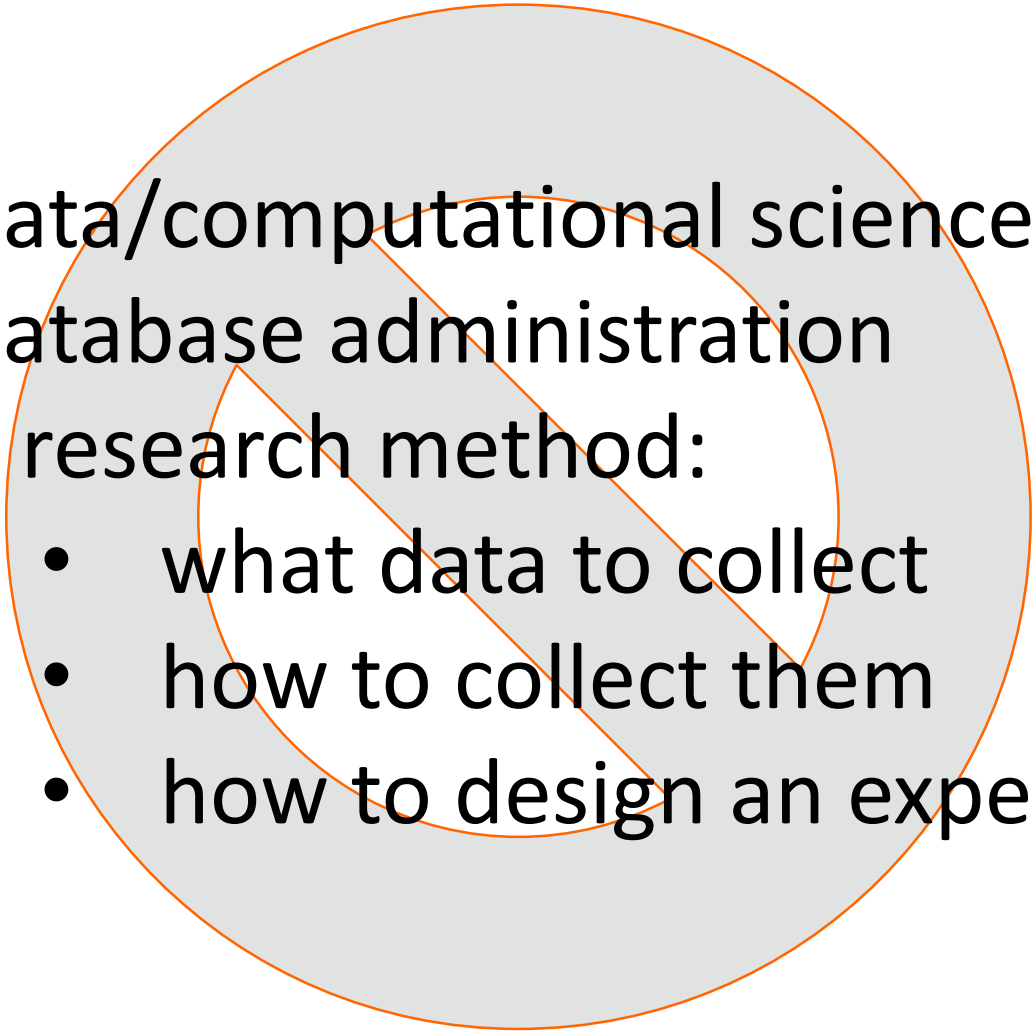
University of Edinburgh
MANTRA Research Data Management Training,
'Research Data Explained'




Data management:

Actions that contribute to effective **storage**, **preservation** and **reuse** of data and documentation throughout the research lifecycle.

What data management is not:



Data/computational science

Database administration

A research method:

- what data to collect
- how to collect them
- how to design an experiment

Why data management?

Further your field

Increase visibility & impact

Saves time

Protects investment

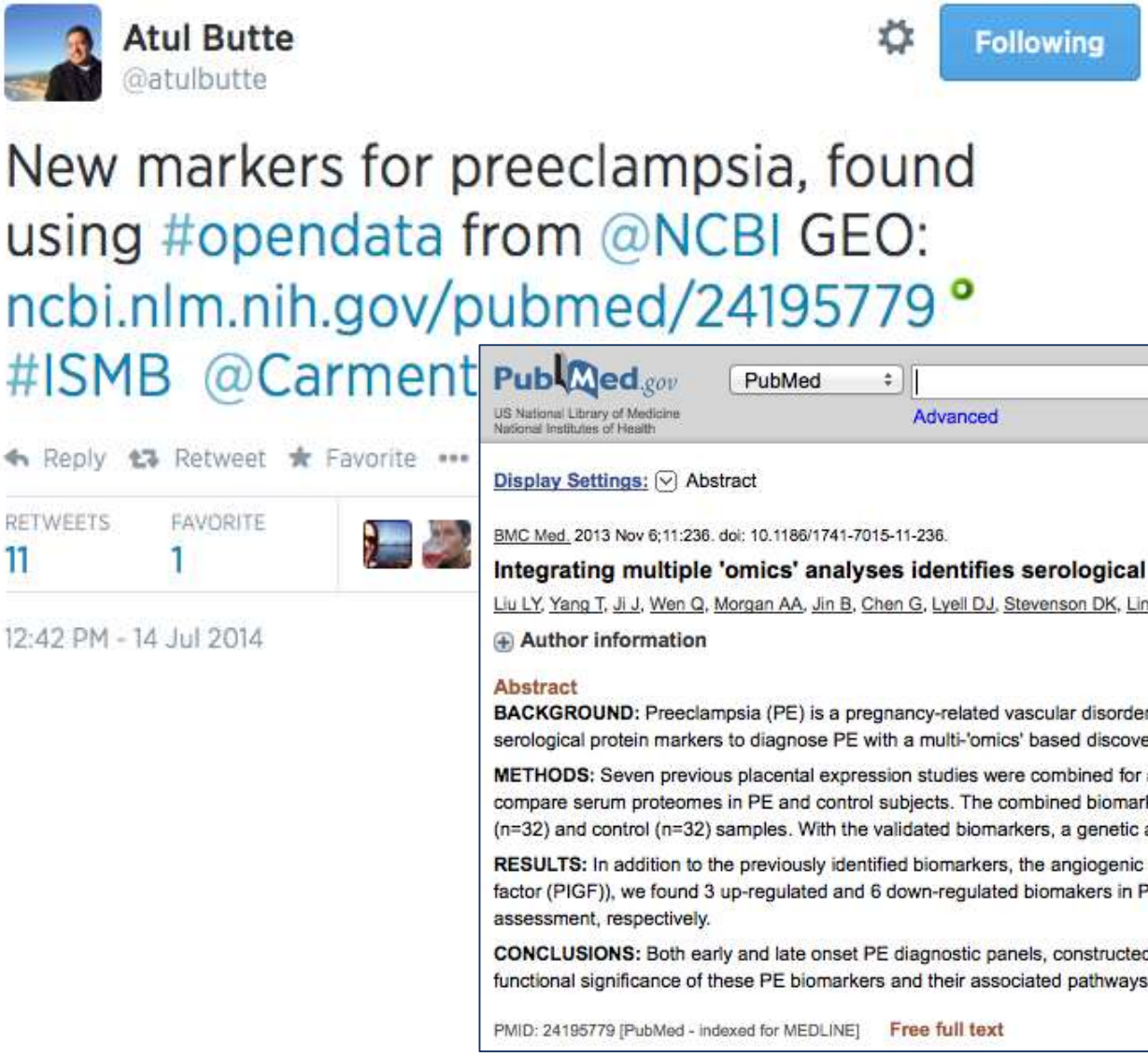
Increases research efficiency

Preservation

Funding agency requirements

image credit: http://www.flickr.com/photos/karenchiang/5041048588/

Further your field



Increase visibility & impact

PLOS ONE | Subject Areas | For Authors | About Us | Search

OPEN ACCESS PEER-REVIEWED

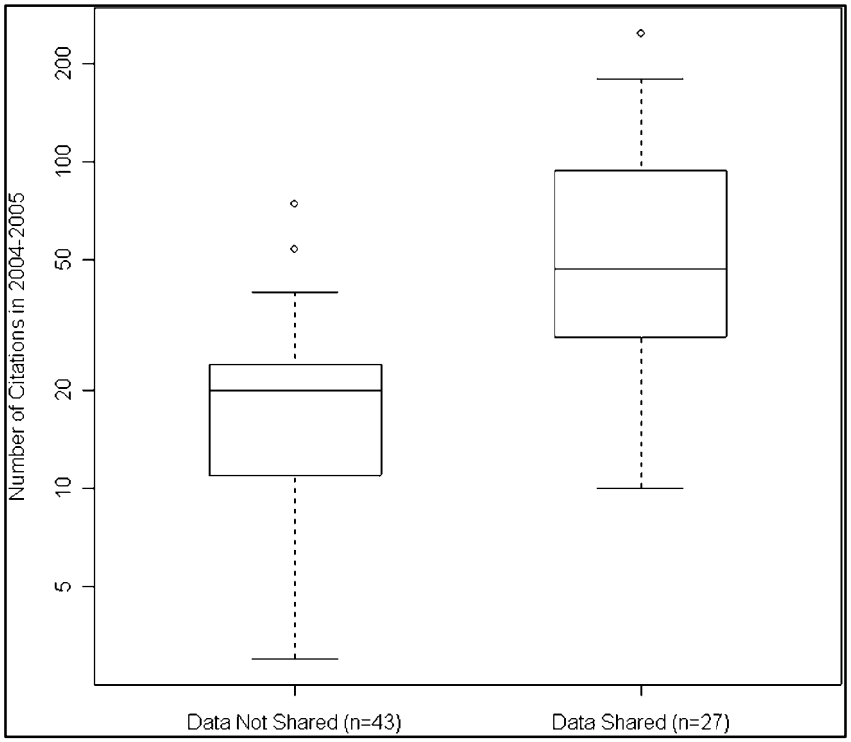
RESEARCH ARTICLE

34,276 VIEWS | 97 CITATIONS | 359 SAVES

Sharing Detailed Research Data Is Associated with Increased Citation Rate

Heather A. Piwowar, Roger S. Day, Douglas B. Fridsma

Published: Mar 21, 2007 • DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0000308 • Featured in PLOS Collections



85 cancer microarray clinical trial publications

69% increase in citations for articles w/publicly available data

Funder mandates

"…directed Federal agencies with more than $100M in R&D expenditures to develop plans to make the published results of federally funded research freely available to the public within one year of publication and requiring researchers to better account for and manage the digital data resulting from federally funded scientific research."

Posted by Michael Stebbins on February 22, 2013 at 12:04 PM EST

E-Mail Tweet Share +

The Obama Administration is committed to the proposition that citizens deserve easy access to the results of scientific research their tax dollars have paid for. That's why, in a policy memorandum released today, OSTP Director John Holdren has directed Federal agencies with more than $100M in R&D expenditures to develop plans to make the published results of federally funded research freely available to the public within one year of publication and requiring researchers to better account for and manage the digital data resulting from federally funded scientific research. OSTP has been looking into this issue for some time, soliciting broad public input on multiple occasions and convening an interagency working group to develop a policy. The final policy reflects substantial inputs from scientists and scientific organizations, publishers, members of Congress, and other members of the public—over 65 thousand of whom recently signed a *We the People* petition asking for expanded public access to the results of taxpayer-funded research.

Which agencies are affected?

$54M

$35M

$23M

Aspects of data management

Data types & formats

Data types

Observational | Can't be recaptured, recreated or replaced; *Examples: sensor readings, sensory (human) observations, survey results*

Experimental | Should be reproducible, but can be expensive; *Examples: gene sequences, chromatograms, spectroscopy, microscopy, cell counts*

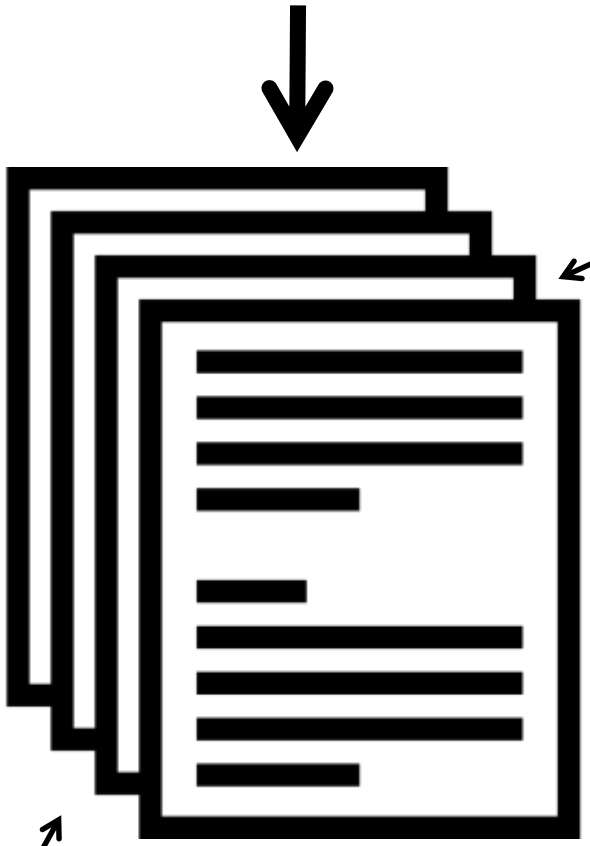
Derived or compiled | Reproducible, but can be very expensive; *Examples: text and data mining, compiled database, 3D models*

Simulation | Models and metadata, where the input can be more important than output data; *Examples: climate models, economic models, biogeochemical models*

Reference/canonical | Static or organic collection [peer-reviewed] datasets, most probably published and/or curated; *Examples: gene sequence databanks, chemical structures, census data, spatial data portals*

Amanda's dissertation

The spectral backscattering properties of marine particles



Reference
global oceanic bio-optical observations [NASA]

Observations
ship-based sampling & moored instruments

Compiled observations
global oceanic bio-optical observations [self + from peers]

Simulation results
scattering & absorption of light

Derived variables
endless things

Experimental
optical properties of phytoplankton cultures

Data types: another classification

Qualitative data "is a categorical measurement expressed not in terms of numbers, but rather by means of a natural language description. In statistics, it is often used interchangeably with "categorical" data." See also: **nominal, ordinal**

Quantitative data "is a numerical measurement expressed not by means of a natural language description, but rather in terms of numbers. However, not all numbers are continuous and measurable."

"My favorite color is blue-green." vs. "My favorite color is 510 nm."

Source: Wikibooks: Statistics

More common data types

Geospatial data has a geographical or geospatial aspect. Spatial location is critically tied to other variables.

Digital image, audio & video data

Documentation & scripts Sometimes, software code IS data; likewise with documentation (laboratory notebooks, written observations, etc.)

File Formats

"A **file format** is a standard way that information is encoded for storage in a computer file. It specifies how bits are used to encode information in a digital storage medium." - Wikipedia

Data type	Possible formats
Qualitative, tabular experimental data	Excel spreadsheet (.xlsx) Comma-delimited text (.csv) Access database (.mdb/,accdb) Google Spreadsheet SPSS portable file (.por) XML file

Reflective Writing: 60 seconds

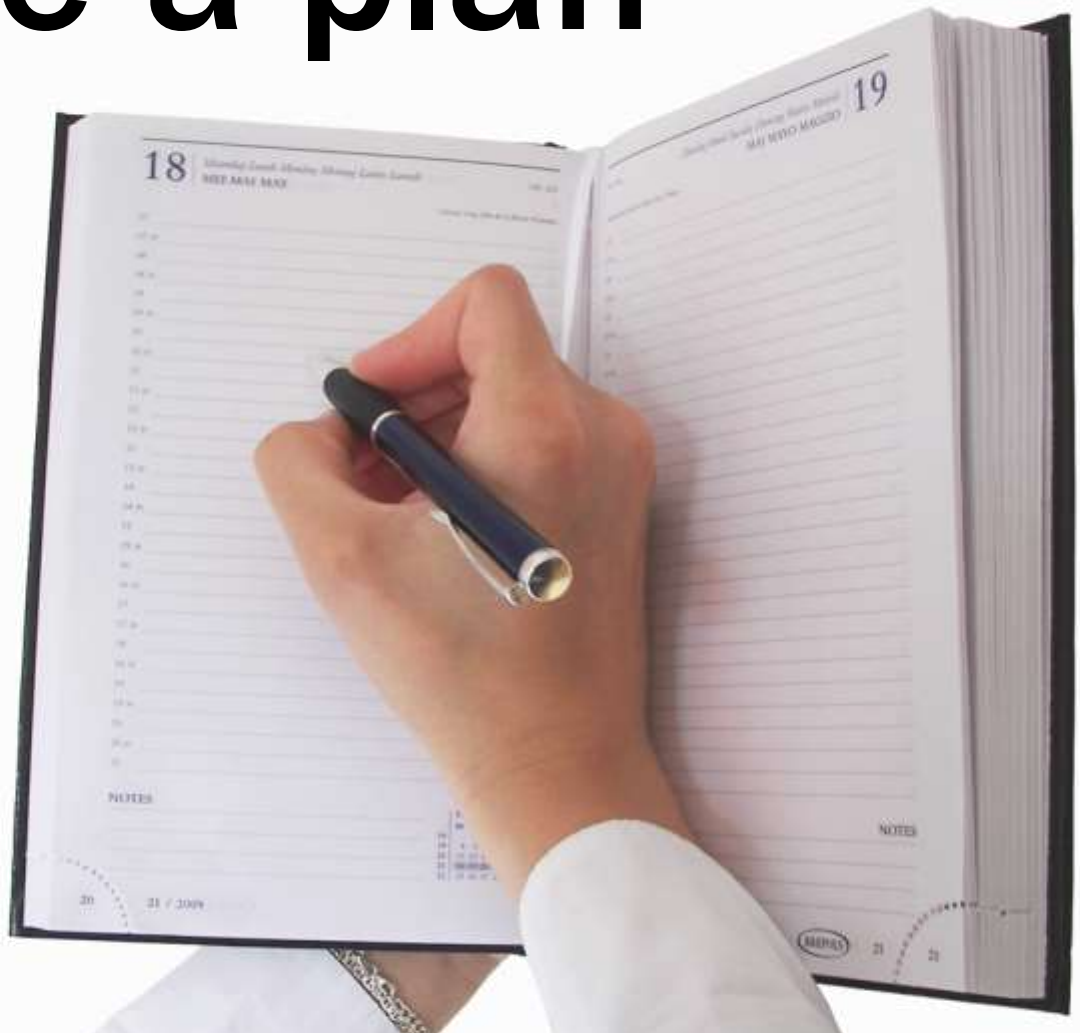
What types & formats of data will you be generating and/or using?

Observational | Experimental | Derived | Compiled | Simulation | Reference/Canonical
Qualitative | Quantitative | Geospatial
Image/audio/video | Scripts/codes

The “big picture”

Where do you start?

Make a plan

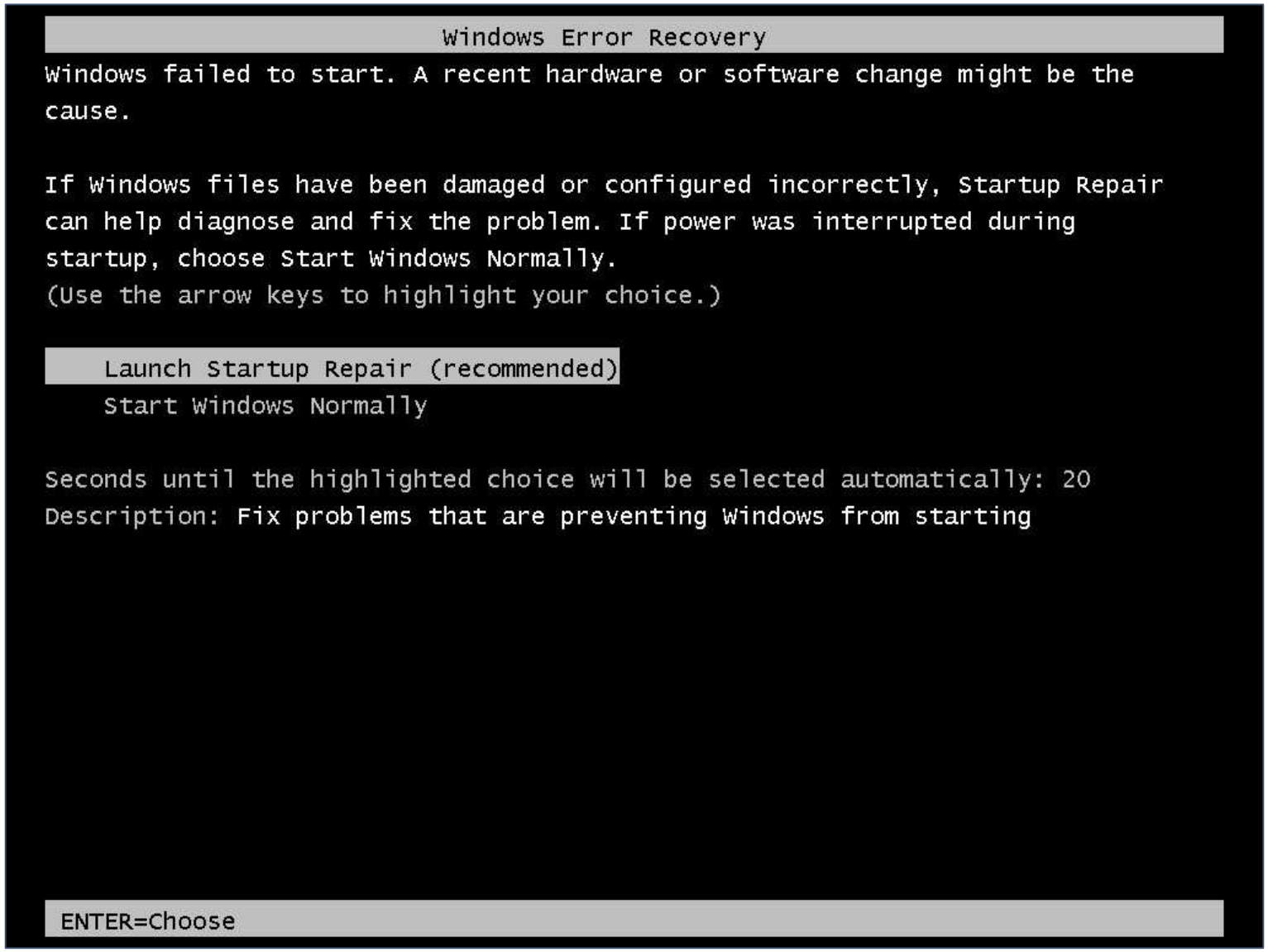


Data storage & backup

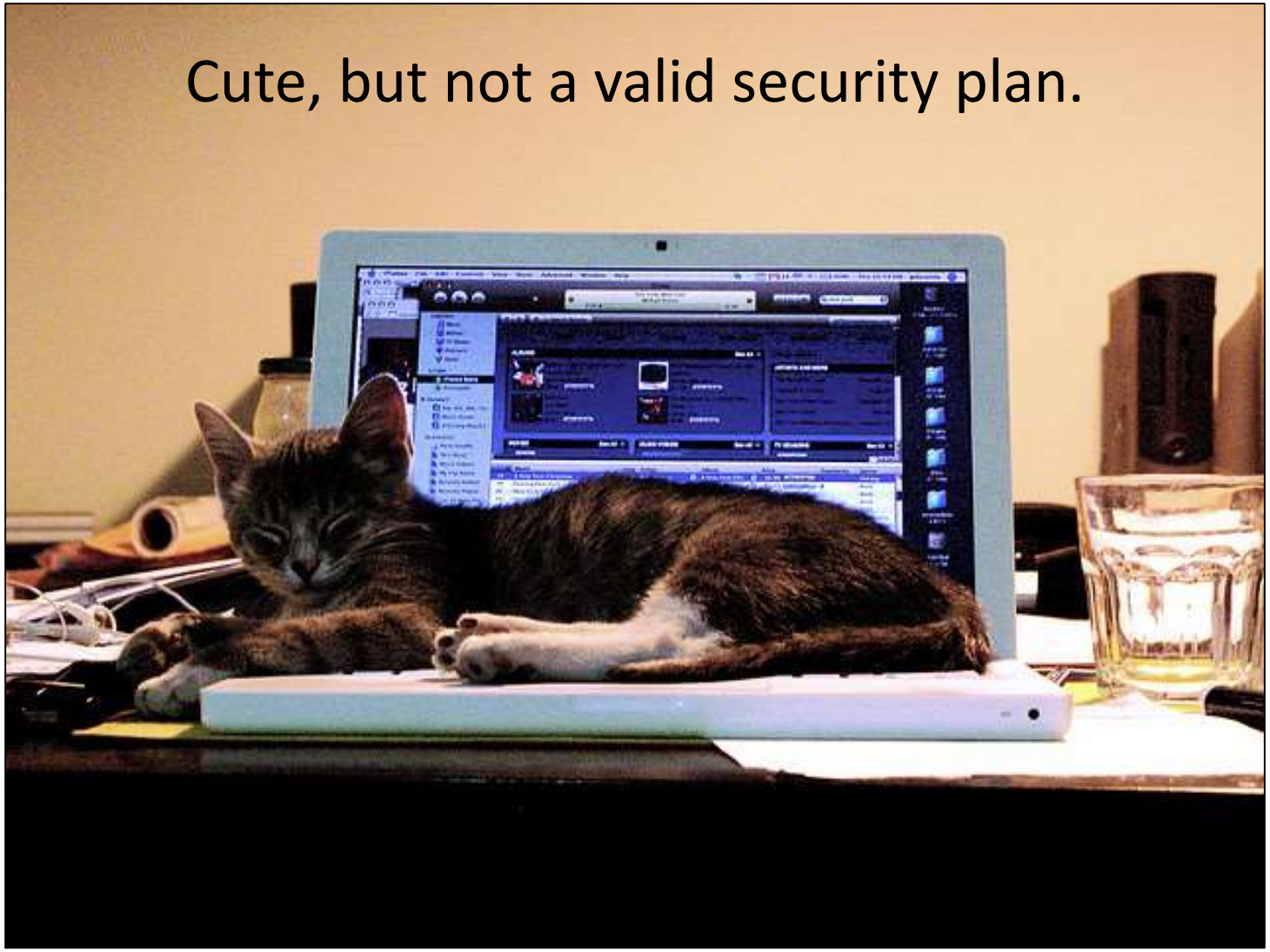
“Your data are the life blood of your research. If you lose your data recovery could be slow, costly or even worse…

it could be impossible.”

Most common loss scenario: drive failure



This happens a lot:
physical theft & unintentional damage



Rare, unexpected events happen

University of Southampton, School of Electronics and Computer Science, Southampton, UK, 2005

It CAN happen to you

Real-world lesson:

Audit your backups…

DataONE research and other notes

Research Notes | Intern Notebooks | Coffeehouse | DataONE.org

← Previous Next →

The Best Laid Schemes of Backups and Redundancy…

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by **smenz** — **No Comments ↓**

Data loss: while we can use the arsenal of technology at our command to guard against it, sometimes the

Search

Tags

archiving Citations

contributed

Correspondenc

Databases data r

data sharing da

Classification Envi

Data backup

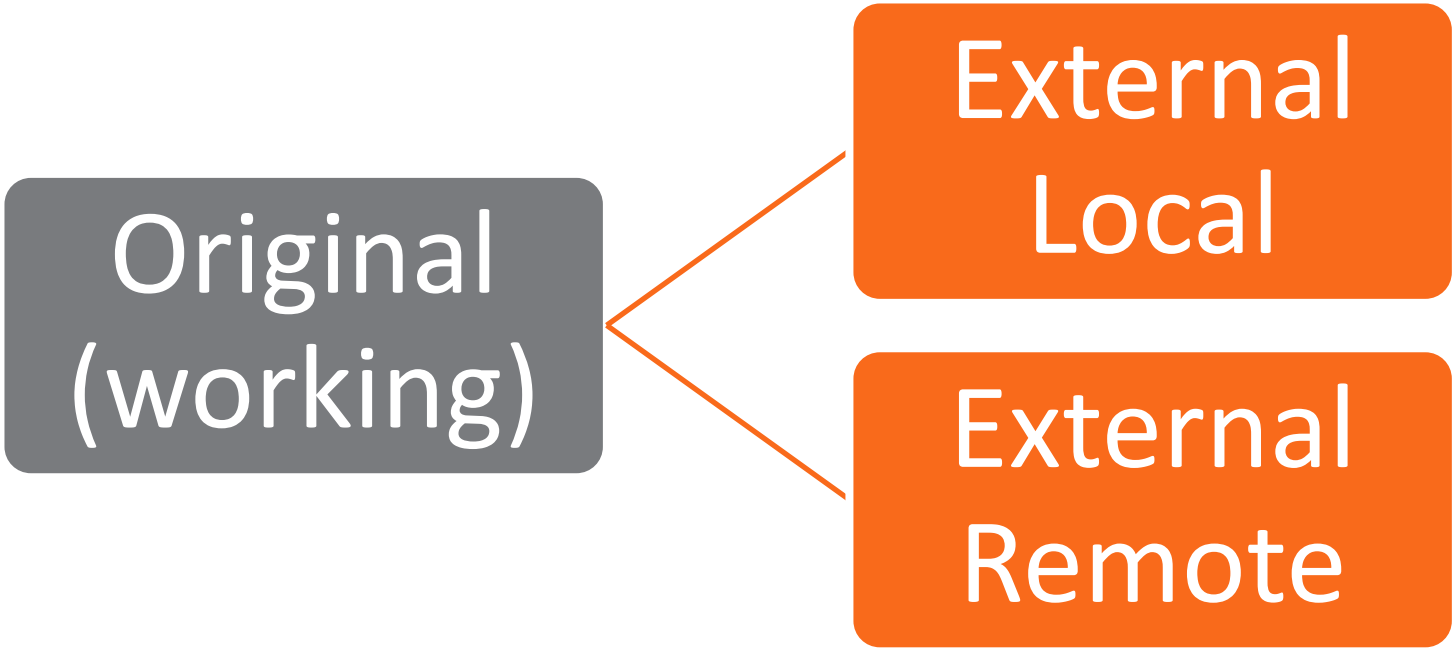
"Keeping backups is probably your most important data management task."

-Everyone

1. Some data backup is better than none.
2. Automated backups are better than manual.
3. Your data are only as safe as your last backup.

Data backup

Best Practice: 3 Copies of datasets



Data storage options

1. Personal computers (PCs) & laptops
2. External storage devices
3. Networked Drives
4. Cloud servers

Storage: PC/laptop

Advantages

- Convenient

Disadvantages

- Drive failure common
- Laptops: susceptible to theft & unintentional damage
- Not replicated

Bottom Line

- Do NOT use to store master copies of data
- Not a long term storage solution
- Back up important data & files regularly

Storage: external storage devices

Advantages

Convenient, cheap & portable

Disadvantages

Longevity not guaranteed (e.g. Zip disks)

Errors writing to CD/DVD are common

Easily damaged, misplaced or lost (=security risk)

May not be big enough to hold all data; multiple drives needed

Bottom Line

Do NOT use to store master copies of data

Not recommended for long-term storage

Storage: networked drives

Advantages

- Data in single place, backed up regularly
- Replicated storage not vulnerable to loss due to hardware failure
- Secure storage minimizes risk of loss, theft, unauthorized use
- Available as needed (assuming network avail.)

Disadvantages

- Cost may be prohibitive; export control

Bottom Line

- Highly recommended for master copies of data
- Recommended for long-term storage (~5 years)

Storage: cloud storage

Advantages

- Data in single place, backed up regularly
- Replicated storage not vulnerable to loss due to hardware failure
- Secure storage minimizes risk of loss, theft, unauthorized use

Disadvantages

- Cost may be prohibitive
- Upload/download bottleneck & fees
- Longevity?
- Export control

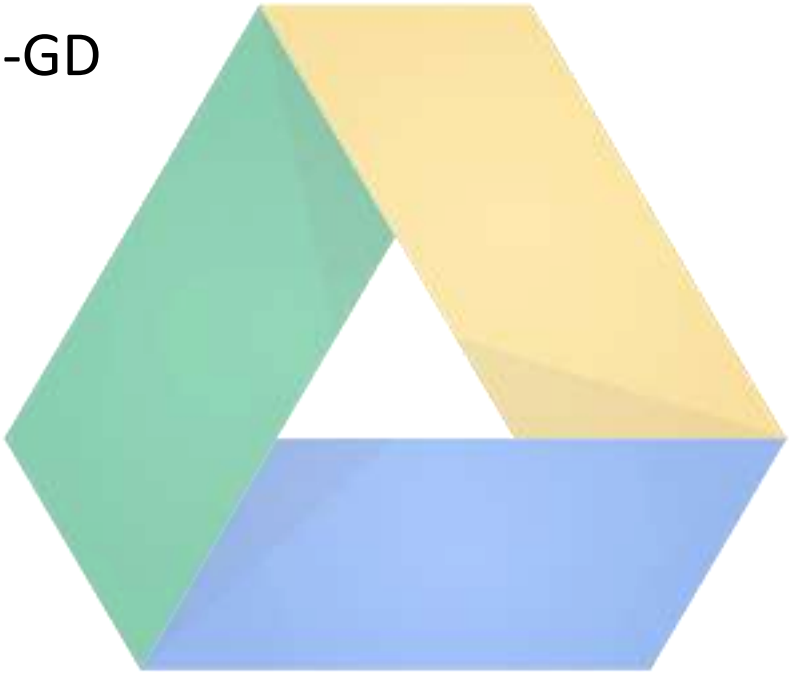
Bottom Line

- Possibly recommended for master copies of data
- Not recommended for in-process data, large files

Storage: Google Drive for OSU

Advantages

- All same advantages of network & cloud storage
- File sharing & collaboration w/variable access levels
- Unlimited storage (GD), 30 GB non-GD
- Automatic version control on GD



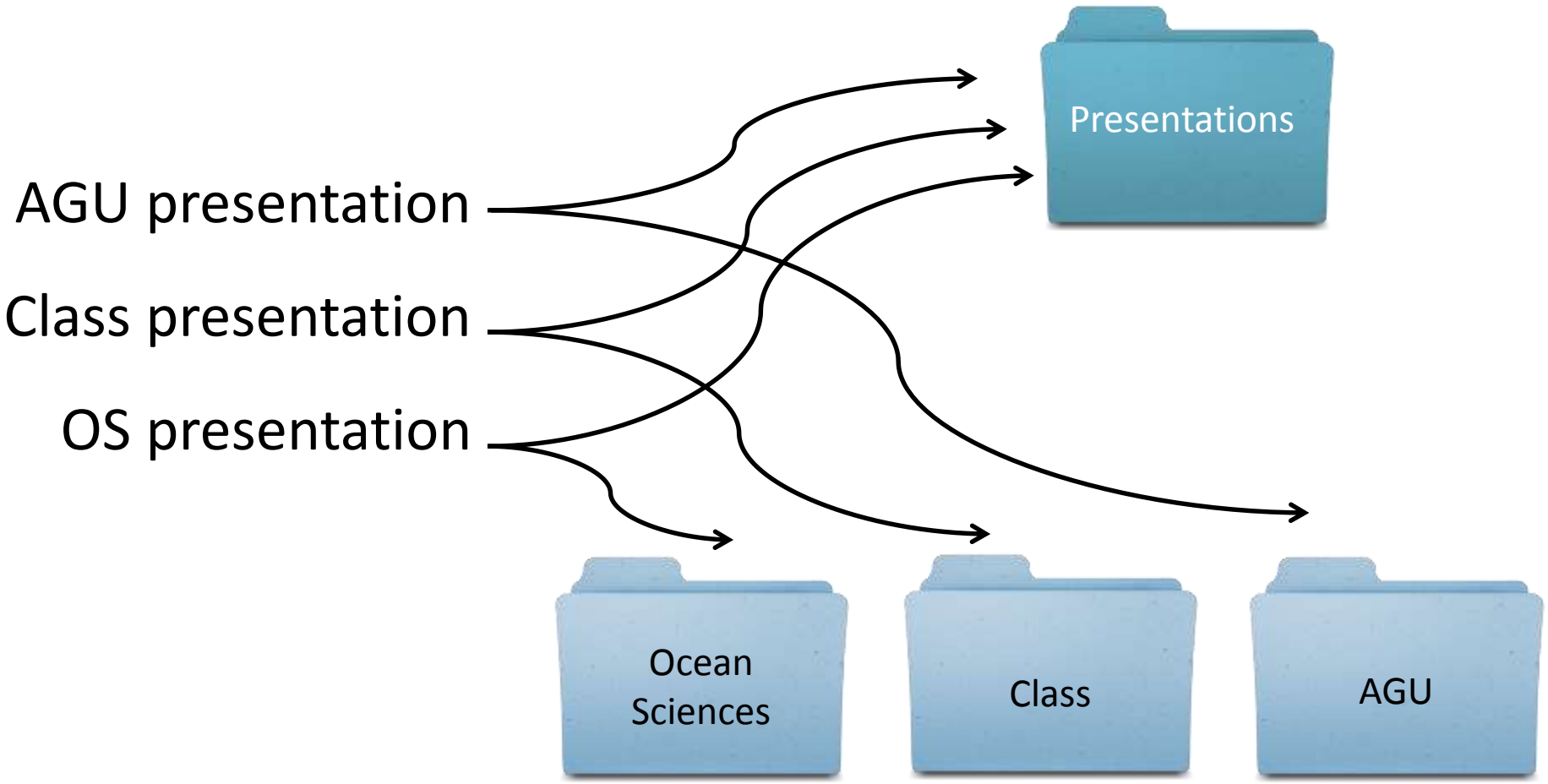
Disadvantages

- 30 GB may not be enough
- Upload/download bottleneck

Bottom Line

- Possibly recommended for master copies of data
- Possibly not recommended for in-process data, large files

Data organization

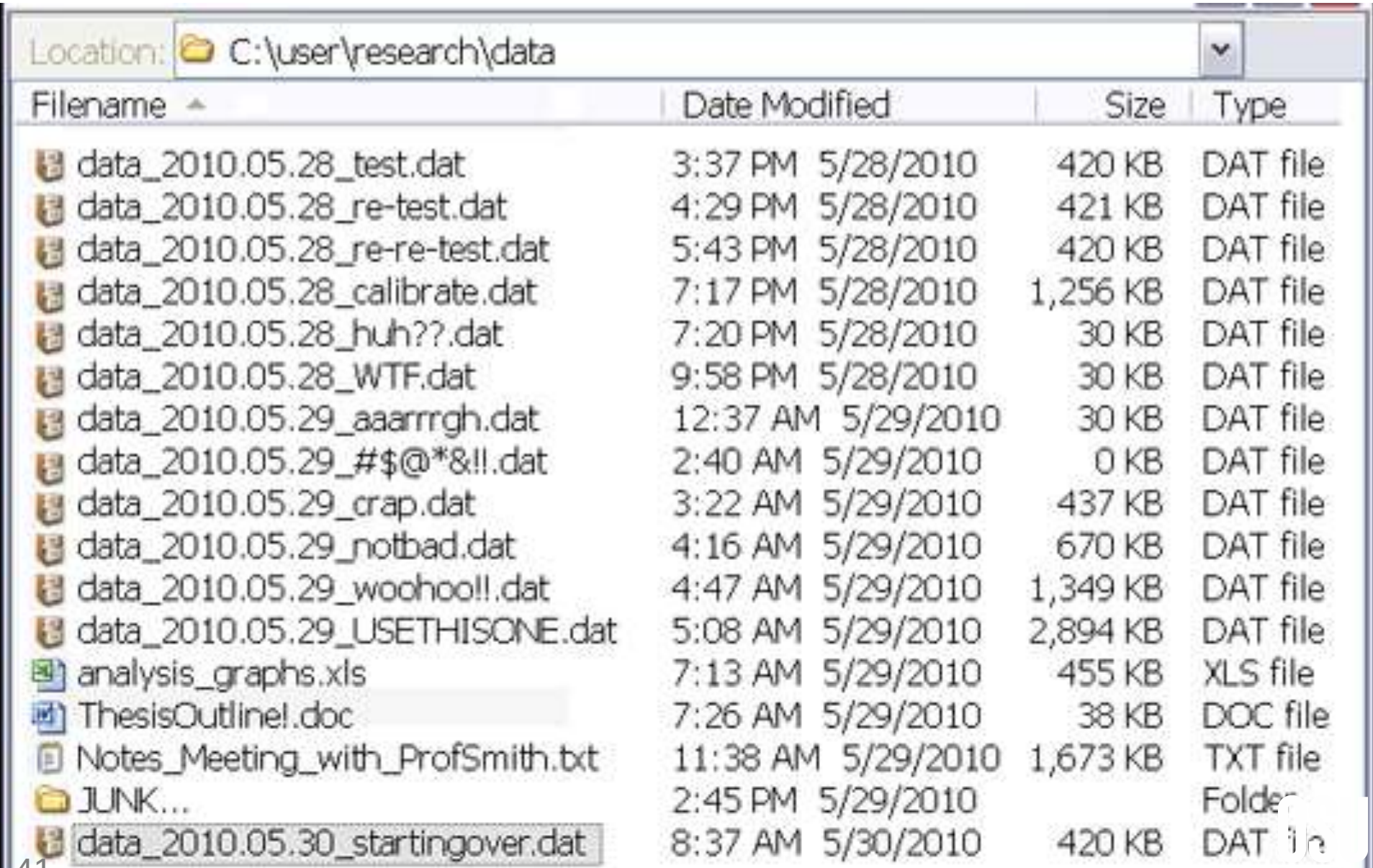


Data storage options

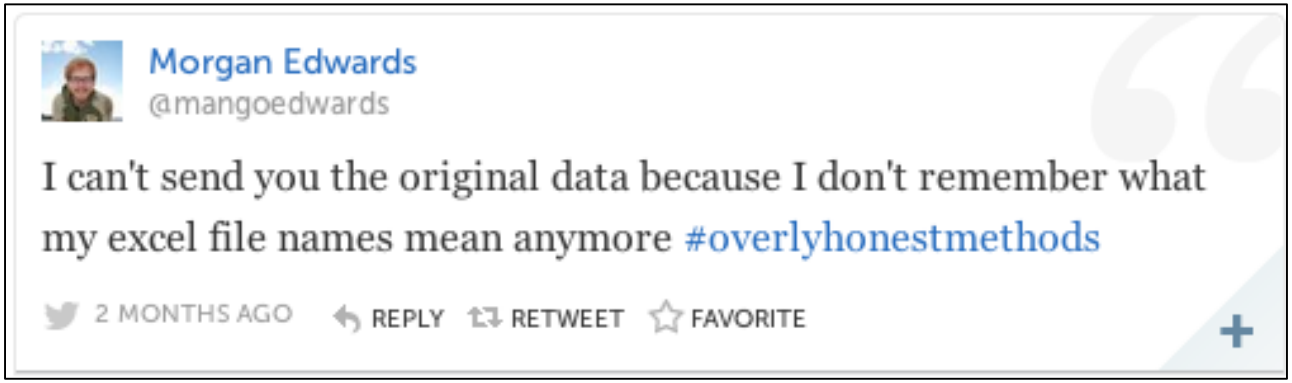
Local	Remote
Computer	Network server
External storage	Cloud storage
Network server	Google Apps
	Box, Dropbox, etc.

File-naming conventions

File naming strategy?



#OverlyHonestMethods



File naming conventions

File naming strategies

Order by date:

- 1955-04-12_notes_MassObs.docx
- 1955-04-12_questionnaire_MassObs.pdf
- 1963-12-15_notes_Gorer.docx
- 1963-12-15_questionnaire_Gorer.pdf

Order by type:

- Notes_Gorer_1963-12-15.docx
- Notes_MassObs_1955-04-12.docx
- Questionnaire_Gorer_1963-12-15.pdf
- Questionnaire_MassObs_1955-04-12.pdf

Order by subject:

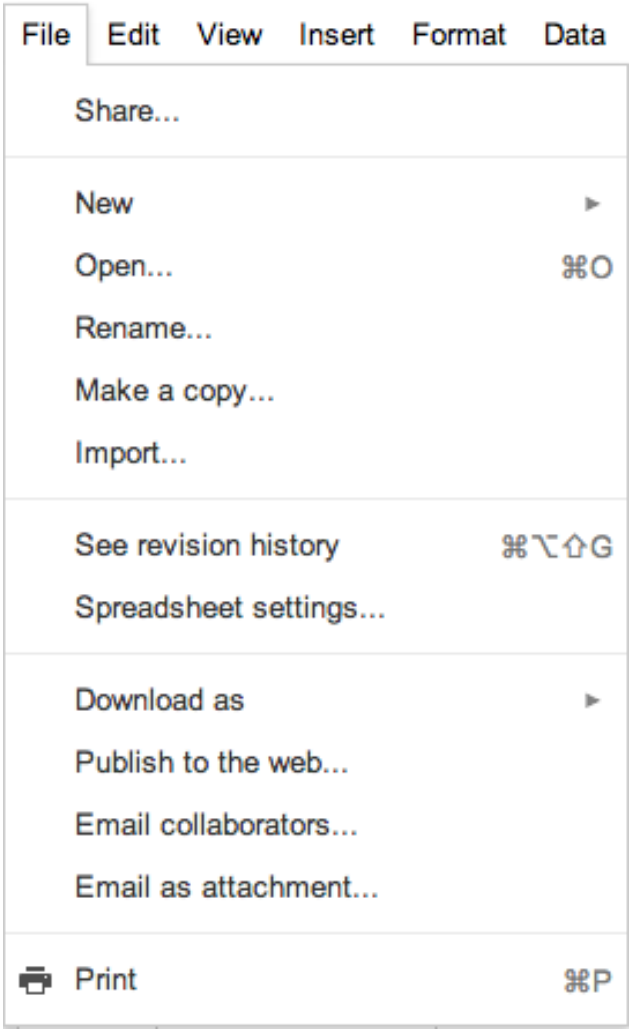
- Gorer_notes_1963-12-15.docx
- Gorer_questionnaire_1963-12-15.pdf
- MassObs_notes_1955-04-12.docx
- MassObs_questionnaire_1955-04-12.pdf

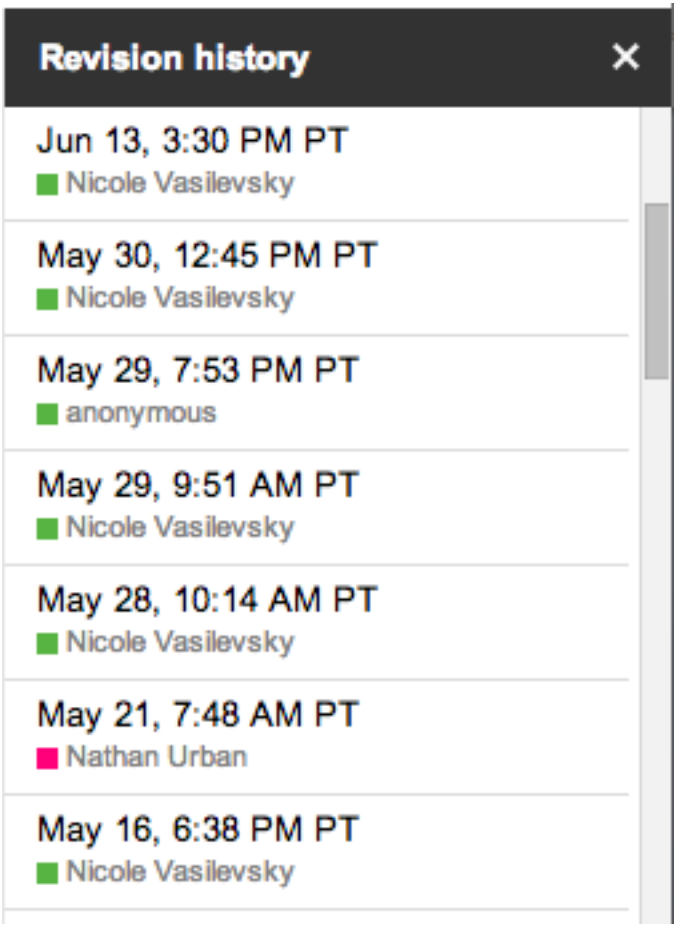
Forced order with numbering:

- 01_MassObs_questionnaire_1955-04-12.pdf
- 02_MassObs_notes_1955-04-12.docx
- 03_Gorer_questionnaire_1963-12-15.pdf
- 04_Gorer_notes_1963-12-15.docx

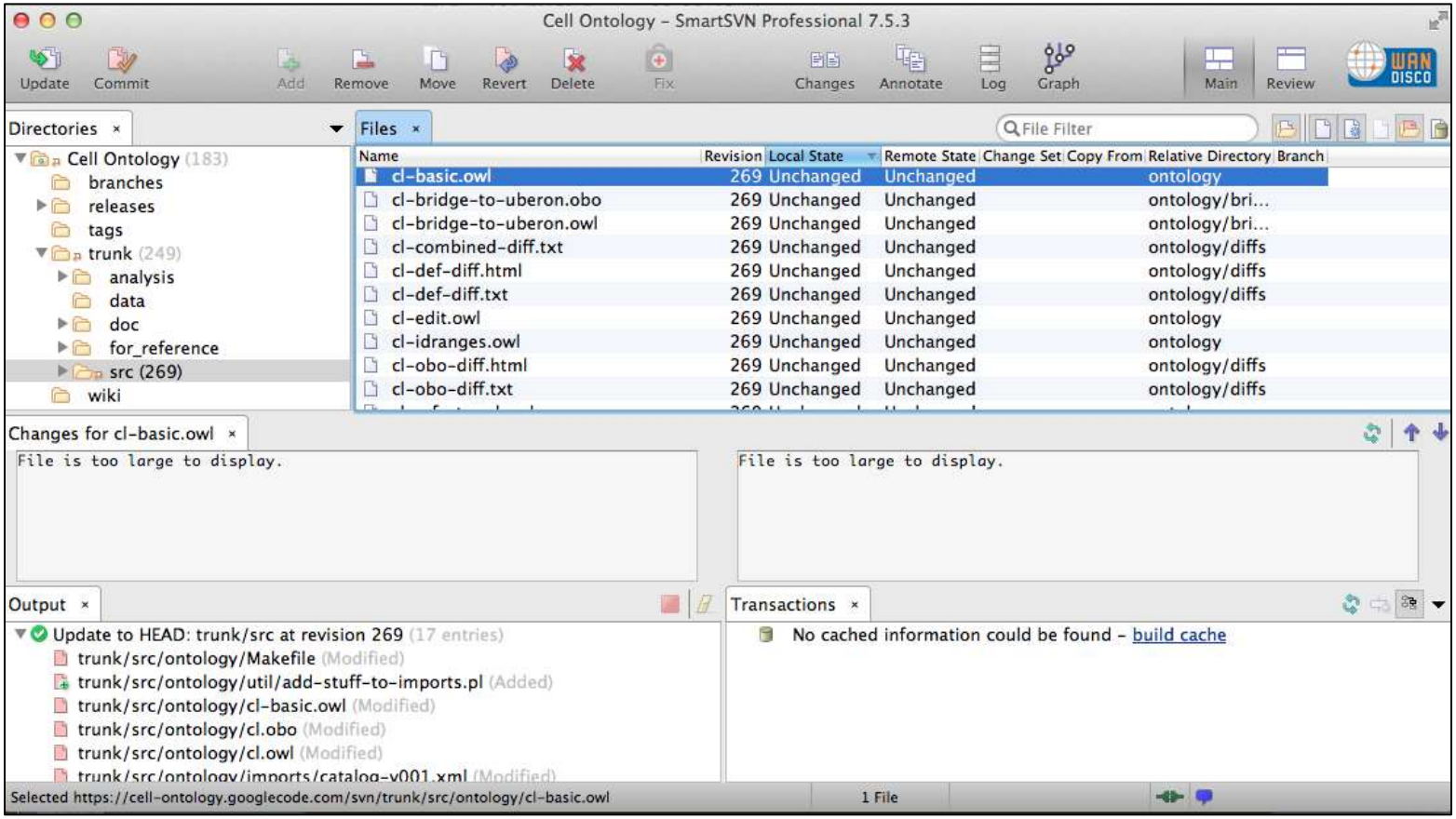
Version control

Google docs





Version control



The coolest Interface to (Sub)Version Control

TortoiseSVN

mercurial

git

Random suggestion

Disambiguate yourself

ORCID Open Researcher & Contributor ID

Connecting Research and Researchers

John L. Campbell
Forest Research Ecologist
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

John L. Campbell
Forest Research Ecologist
Center for Research on Ecosystem Change
US Forest Service, Durham, NC

Google "Campbell, JL" and ecology

Scholar About 2,980 results (0.15 sec)

[Winter in northeastern North America: a critical period for **ecological** processes](#)
JL Campbell, MJ Mitchell, PM Groffman… - Frontiers in **Ecology** …, 2005 - Eco Soc America
Ecological research during winter has historically been a low priority in northeastern North America, an oversight that stems from the commonly accepted notion that there is little biological activity when temperatures drop below freezing. However, recent research has ...
Cited by 108 Related articles All 10 versions Cite

[Post-wildfire logging hinders regeneration and increases fire risk](#)
DC Donato, JB Fontaine, JL Campbell, WD Robinson… - Science, 2006 - sciencemag.org
... However, our data indicate that delay was responsible for ~10% of the woody fuel present after logging. ↵ JK Agee, Fire **Ecology** of Pacific Northwest Forests (Island Press, Washington, DC, 1993). ... More in Collections. **Ecology**. Related Jobs from ScienceCareers. ...
Cited by 156 Related articles All 63 versions Cite

[Site-level evaluation of satellite-based global terrestrial gross primary production and net primary production monitoring](#)
DP Turner, WD Ritts, WB Cohen… - Global Change …, 2005 - Wiley Online Library
... AA, Running, SW, Zhao, M., Wofsy, SC, Dunn, AL, Law, BE, **Campbell**, **JL**, Oechel, WC ... 3 Department of Forest **Ecology** and Management, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WN 53706, USA,. 4 ... HARV is within the Harvard Forest Long Term **Ecological** Research (LTER) site in ...
Cited by 175 Related articles All 25 versions Cite

[Supply-side controls on soil respiration among Oregon forests](#)
JL Campbell, OJ Sun, BE Law - Global Change Biology, 2004 - Wiley Online Library
... Additional Information. How to Cite. **Campbell**, **JL**, Sun, OJ and Law, BE (2004), Supply-side controls on soil respiration among Oregon forests. Global Change Biology, 10: 1857–1869. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2486.2004.00850.x. Author Information. ...
Cited by 48 Related articles All 2 versions Cite

[Ecosystem processes and human influences regulate streamflow response to climate change at long-term **ecological** research sites](#)
JA Jones, IF Creed, KL Hatcher, RJ Warren, MB Adams… - BioScience, 2012 - JSTOR
Analyses of long-term records at 35 headwater basins in the United States and Canada indicate that climate change effects on streamflow are not as clear as might be expected, perhaps because of ecosystem processes and human influences. Evapotranspiration was ...
Cited by 18 Related articles All 28 versions Cite

[Can fuel-reduction treatments really increase forest carbon storage in the western US by reducing future fire emissions?](#)
JL Campbell, ME Harmon… - Frontiers in **Ecology** and …, 2011 - Eco Soc America
It has been suggested that thinning trees and other fuel-reduction practices aimed at reducing the probability of high-severity forest fire are consistent with efforts to keep carbon (C) sequestered in terrestrial pools, and that such practices should therefore be rewarded ...

Another Doppelgänger

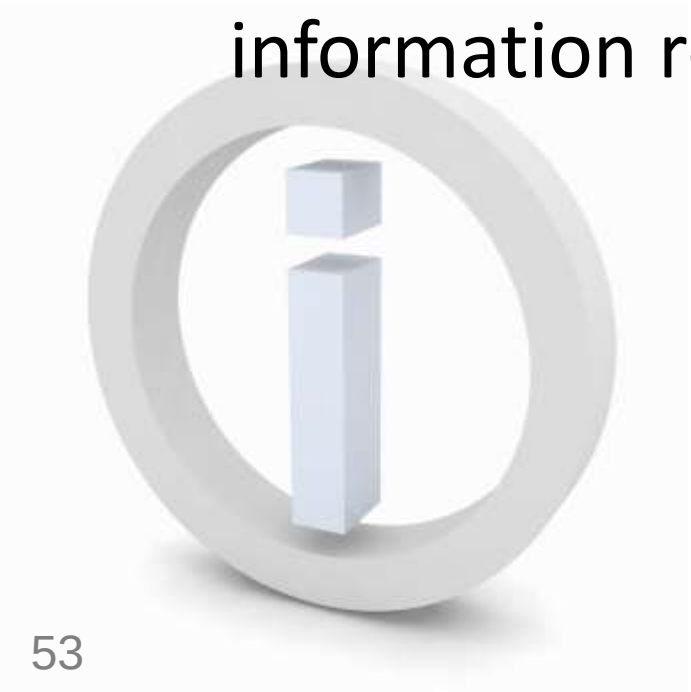
Chris Langdon
Studies ocean acidification
OSU HMSC

Chris Langdon
Studies ocean acidification
University of Miami


Metadata

What is metadata?

- Data about data
- Structured information that describes, explains, locates, or otherwise makes it easier to retrieve, use, or manage an information resource.



NISO, *Understanding Metadata*

Metadata

"The metadata accompanying your data should be written for a user ***20 years into the future*** -- what does that person need to know to use your data properly? Prepare the metadata for a user who is unfamiliar with your project, methods, or observations."

Oak Ridge National Laboratory Distributed Active Archive Center for Biogeochemical Dynamics (ORNL DAAC)

Metadata in real life

You use it all the time…

TITLE **Moby-Dick / Herman Melville ; edited by Hershel Parker, Harrison Hayford ; pictorial materials prepared by John B. Putnam.**

AUTHOR Melville, Herman, 1819-1891.
PUBLISHER New York : Norton, c2002.
NOTE: "An authoritative text before Moby-Dick: international controversy, reviews and letters by Melville, analogues and sources, reviews of Moby-Dick, criticism." Includes bibliographical references (p. 725-726).

SUBJECTS Ahab, Captain (Fictitious character) -- Fiction.
Melville, Herman, 1819-1891. Moby Dick.
Whaling -- Fiction.
Whales -- Fiction.

LOCATION	CALL NUMBER	STATUS
Valley	PS2384 .M6 2002	AVAILABL
OSU Cascades/COCC Floor 2	PS2384 .M6 2002	AVAILABL

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 4 OZ. SERVING (112g)
Servings Per Container VARIED

Amount Per Serving

Calories 170 Calories from Fat 70

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 8g	**12%**
Saturated Fat 3g	**15%**
Cholesterol 65mg	**22%**
Sodium 70mg	**3%**
Total Carbohydrate 0g	**0%**
Dietary Fiber 0g	**0%**
Sugars 0g	
Protein 23g	

- Vitamin C 0%
- Iron 15%

re based on a 2,000 calorie

Weather Conditions for:
CW5709 Corvallis, OR (C5709)
Elev: 239 ft; Latitude: 44.55133; Longitude: -123.29117

Current time: Tue, 20 Nov 3:33 pm (PST)
Most Recent Observation: Tue, 20 Nov 3:12 pm (PST)

Time (PST)	Temp. (f)	Dew Point (f)	Relative Humidity (%)	Wind Direction	Wind Speed (mph)	Altimeter Setting (inches)	Station Pressure (inches)	Quality Control
20 Nov 3:12 pm	54	46	75	SW	4G13	29.71	29.463	OK
20 Nov 3:02 pm	54	47	77	W	7G11	29.70	29.453	OK
20 Nov 2:52 pm	53	47	81	WSW	3G08	29.70	29.453	OK
20 Nov 2:42 pm	53	47	80	W	4G16	29.70	29.453	OK
20 Nov 2:32 pm	55	48	76	SSW	3G11	29.69	29.443	OK
20 Nov 2:22 pm	56	47	73	WSW	5G12	29.68	29.433	OK
20 Nov 2:12 pm	56	48	75	SW	5G12	29.68	29.433	OK
20 Nov 2:02 pm	56	48	74	SW	7G12	29.67	29.423	OK

Major metadata standards

Darwin Core | **biological diversity, taxonomy**

Dublin Core | **general**

DDI (Data Documentation Initiative) | **social & behavioral sciences**

DIF (Directory Interchange Format) | **environmental sciences**

EML (Ecological Metadata Language) | **ecology, biology**

ISO 19115 | **geographic data**

01101101 01100101 01110100 01100001
01100100 01100001 01110100 01100001

Metadata examples

Santa Barbara Coastal Long Term Ecological Research (LTER)

web link

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, 1913-1992

web link

Legal & ethical considerations

Data sharing & reuse

"...digitally formatted scientific data resulting from unclassified research supported wholly or in part by Federal funding should be stored and **publicly accessible** to search, retrieve, and analyze."

Office of Science and Technology Policy
The White House

How to preserve & share data

PANGAEA

RCSB PDB
PROTEIN DATA BANK

figshare
credit for all your research

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

DRYAD

National Oceanographic Data Center

How to preserve & share data

Data journals

Data management plans

What is a data management plan?

…Physical specimens consist of carbonate biothems and filtered water samples are stored in Spilde or Northup's labs until completion of analyses. At this time they are returned to the federal agency for museum curation or destroyed during analysis. Field notes will be scanned into pdf files, with a copy sent to Carlsbad Caverns National Park or other federal cave manager. SEM images will be saved in the tif format. …

Sections of a data management plan

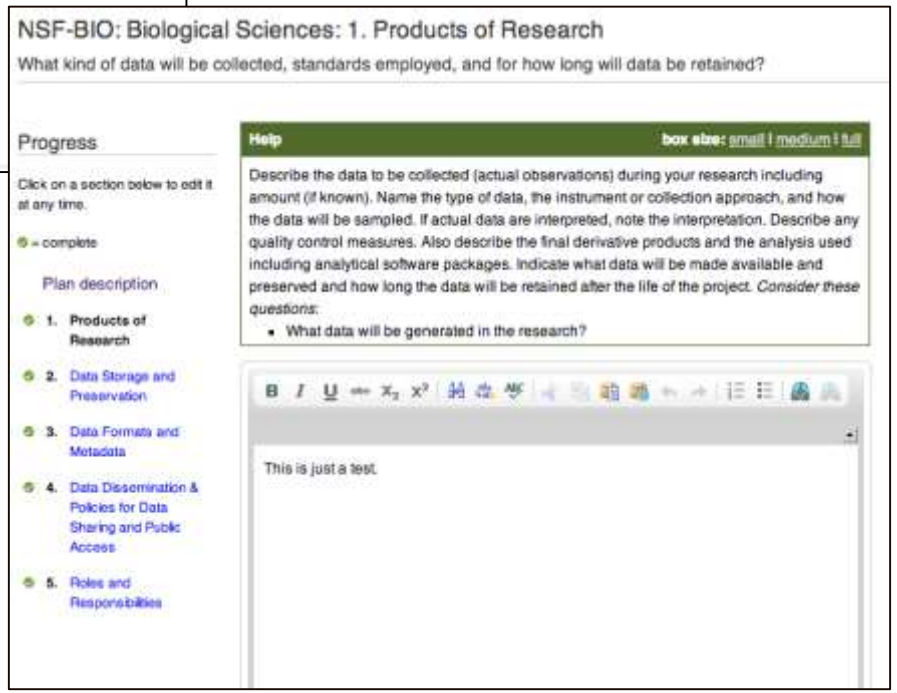
1. Types of data
2. Data & metadata standards
3. Archiving & preservation
4. Sharing (access provisions)
5. Transition from collection to reuse

See resources on your handout + use DMPTool

DMPTool | Visit DMPTool

Build your Data Management Plan

Your go-to resource for data management plans



Contact information

Amanda Whitmire | Data Management Specialist

amanda.whitmire@oregonstate.edu

Steve Van Tuyl | Data and Digital Repository Librarian

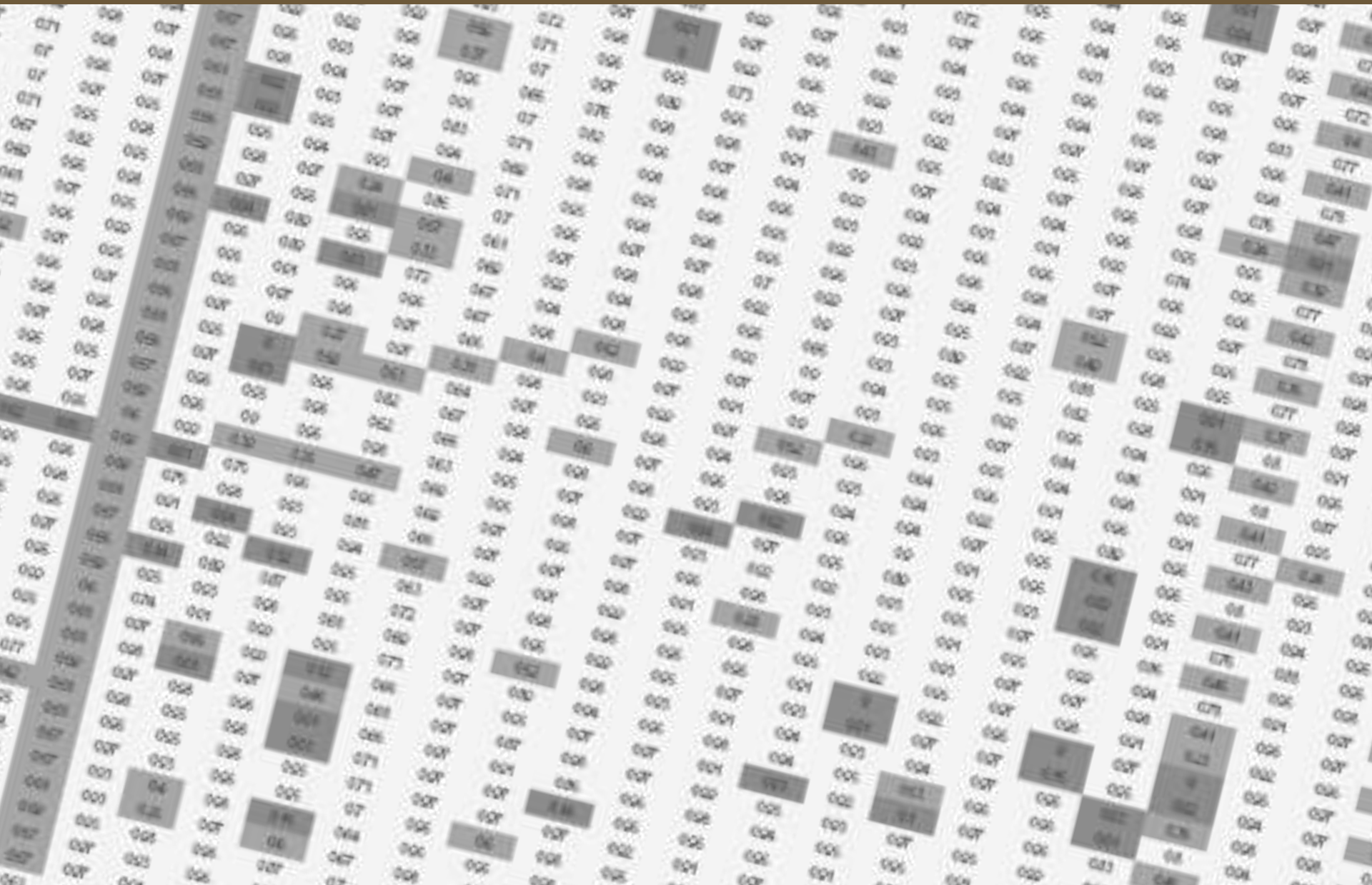
steve.vantuyl@oregonstate.edu

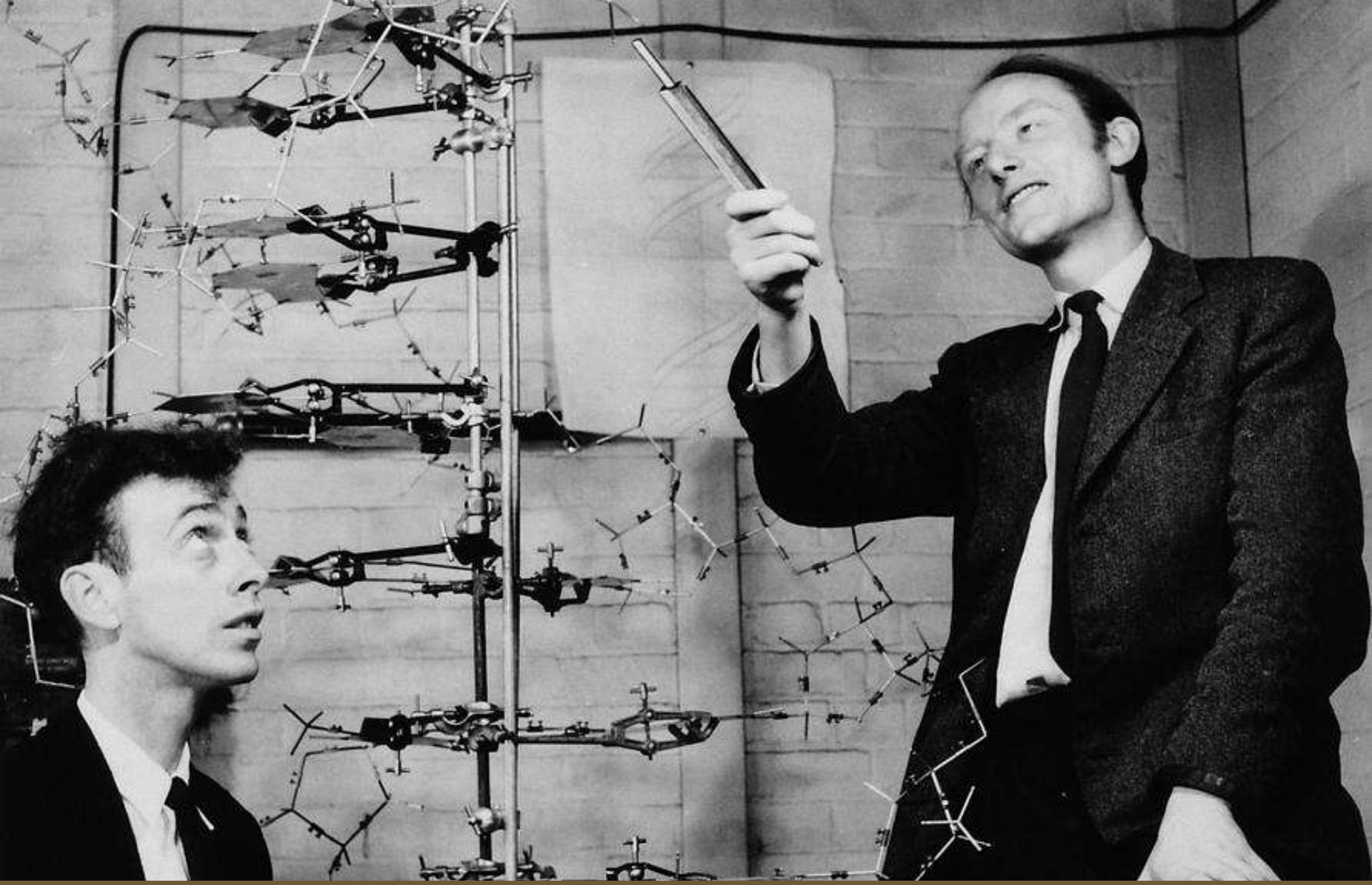
http://bit.ly/OSUData

end

Extra / Outdated Slides

Data does not speak for itself...

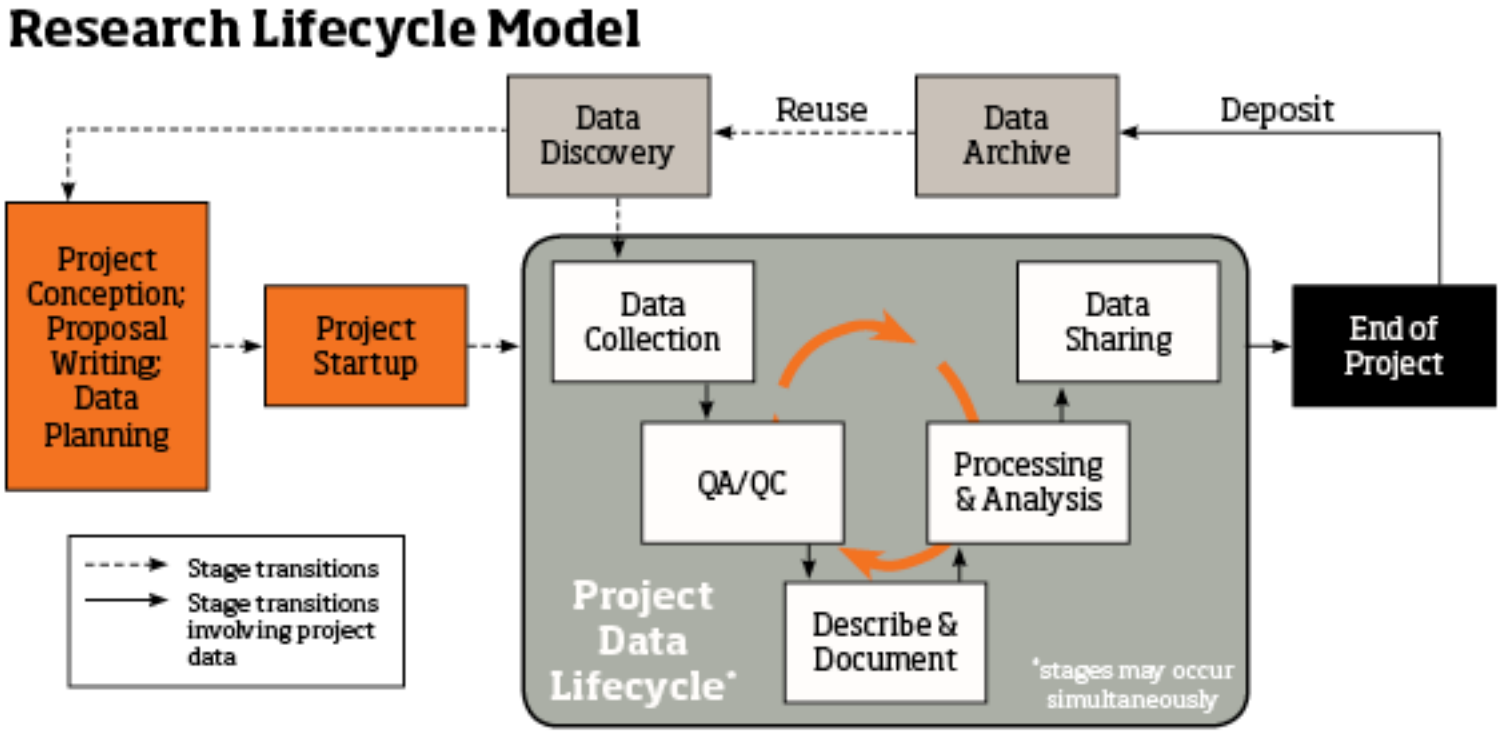




YOU speak for YOUR data

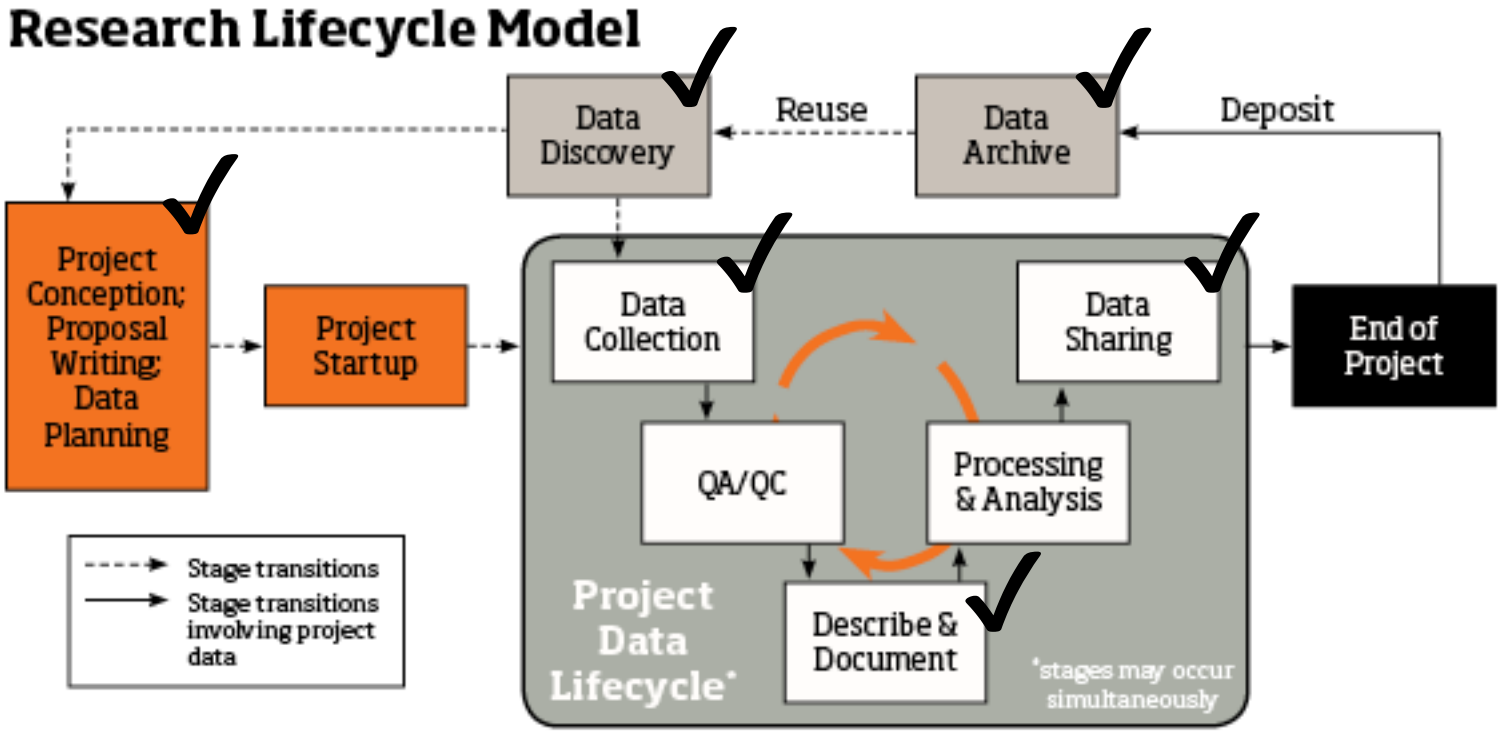
But first, you need to manage it

Data management in the lifecycle



Adapted from: http://dmconsult.library.virginia.edu/lifecycle
http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/deposit/guide/#cycle

How can OSU Libraries help?



Adapted from: http://dmconsult.library.virginia.edu/lifecycle
http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/deposit/guide/#cycle

Copyright – who owns the data?

Copyright applies to text, images, recordings, videos etc. in a digital form, in the same way that it would to analog versions of those works. The code of computer programs (both the human readable source code and the machine readable object code) is protected by copyright as a literary work. Data compilations such as datasets and databases can be protected by copyright in the literary works category, which includes ‘tables’ or ‘compilations’. A table or compilation, consisting of words, figures or symbols (or a combination of these) is protected if it is a literary work and has the required degree of originality.

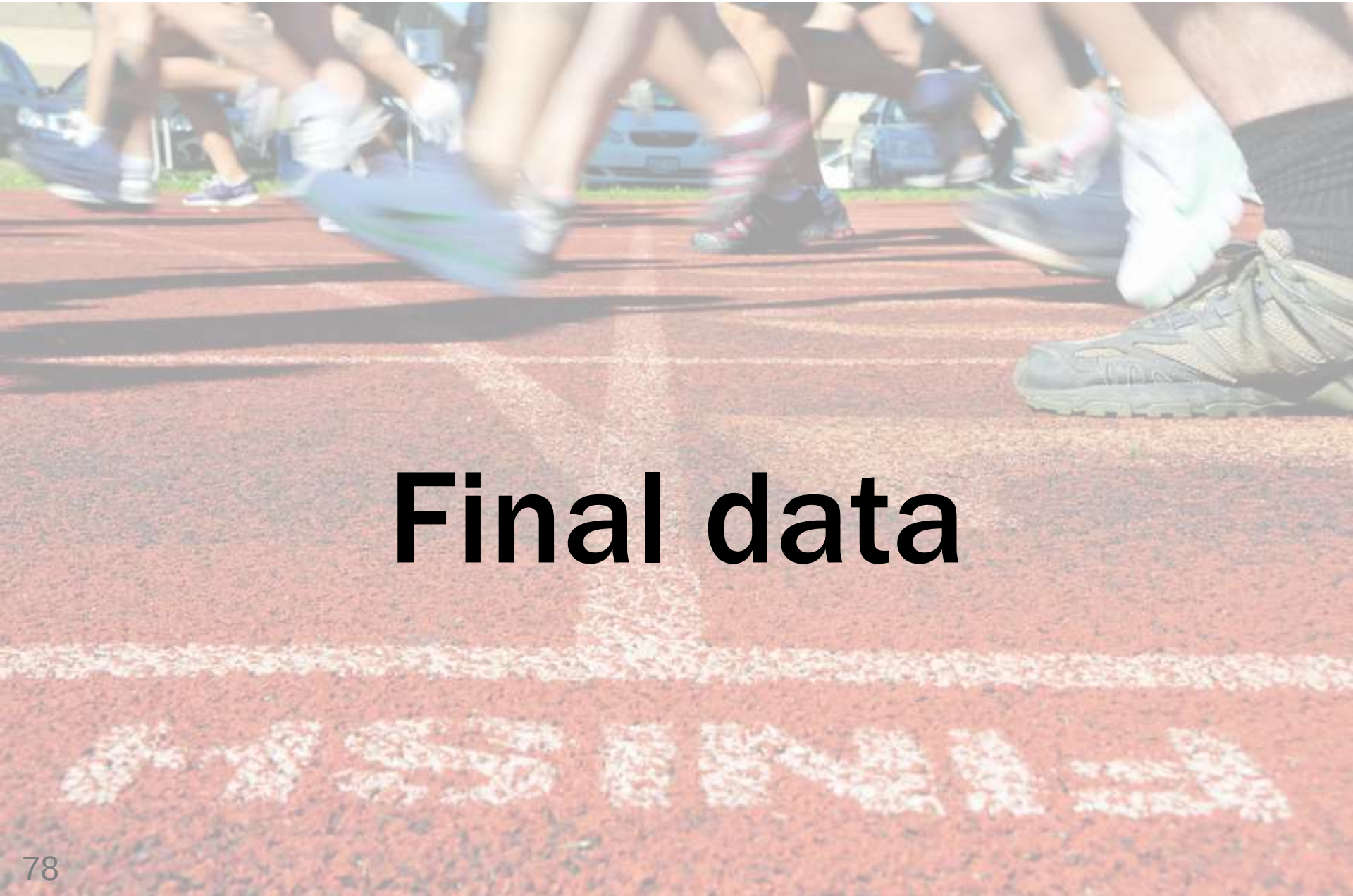
Types, formats & stages of data

Raw data

Types, formats & stages of data

Intermediate data

Types, formats & stages of data



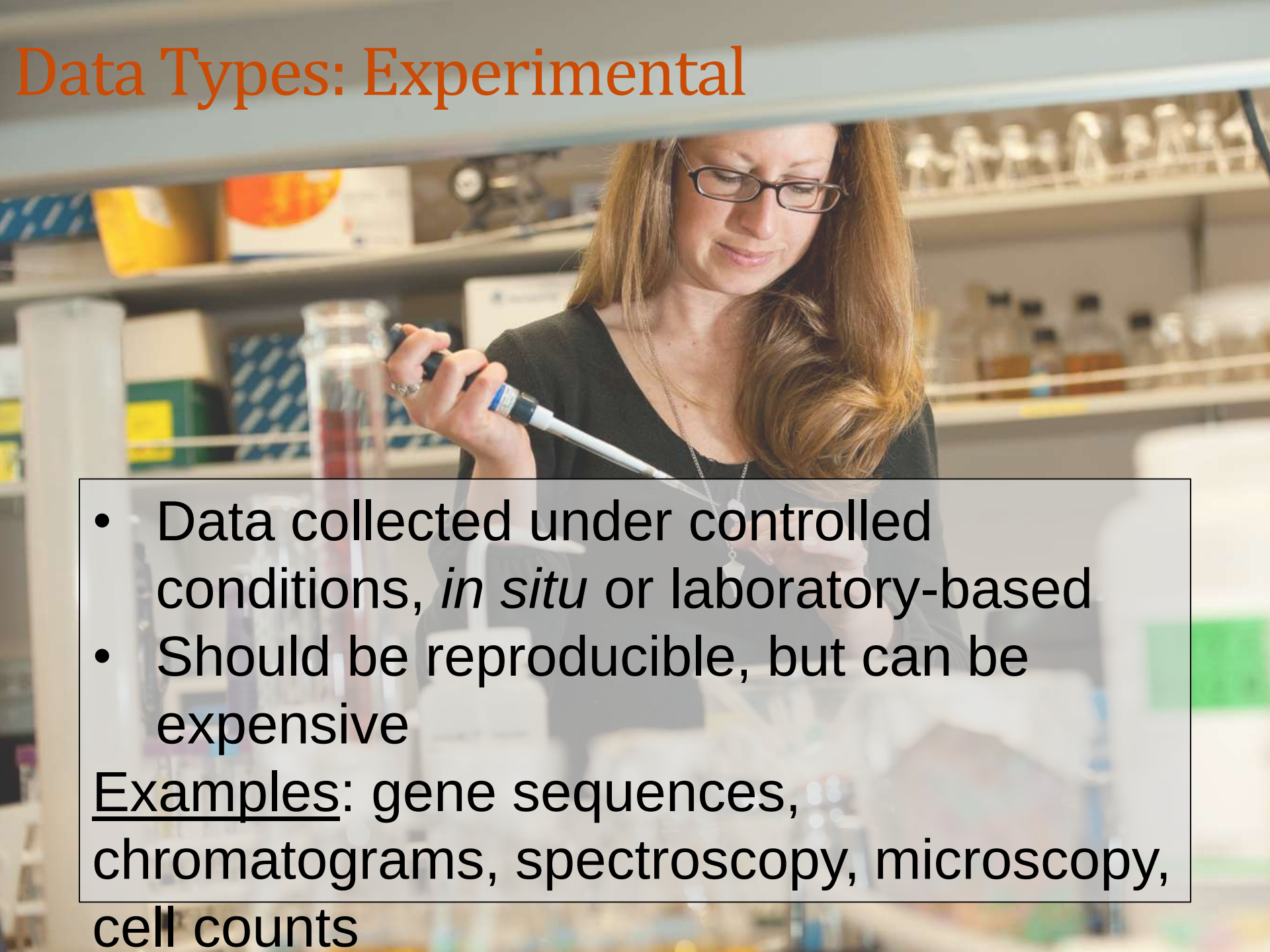
Final data

Data Types: Observational

- Captured *in situ*
- Can't be recaptured, recreated or replaced

Examples: Sensor readings, sensory (human) observations, survey results

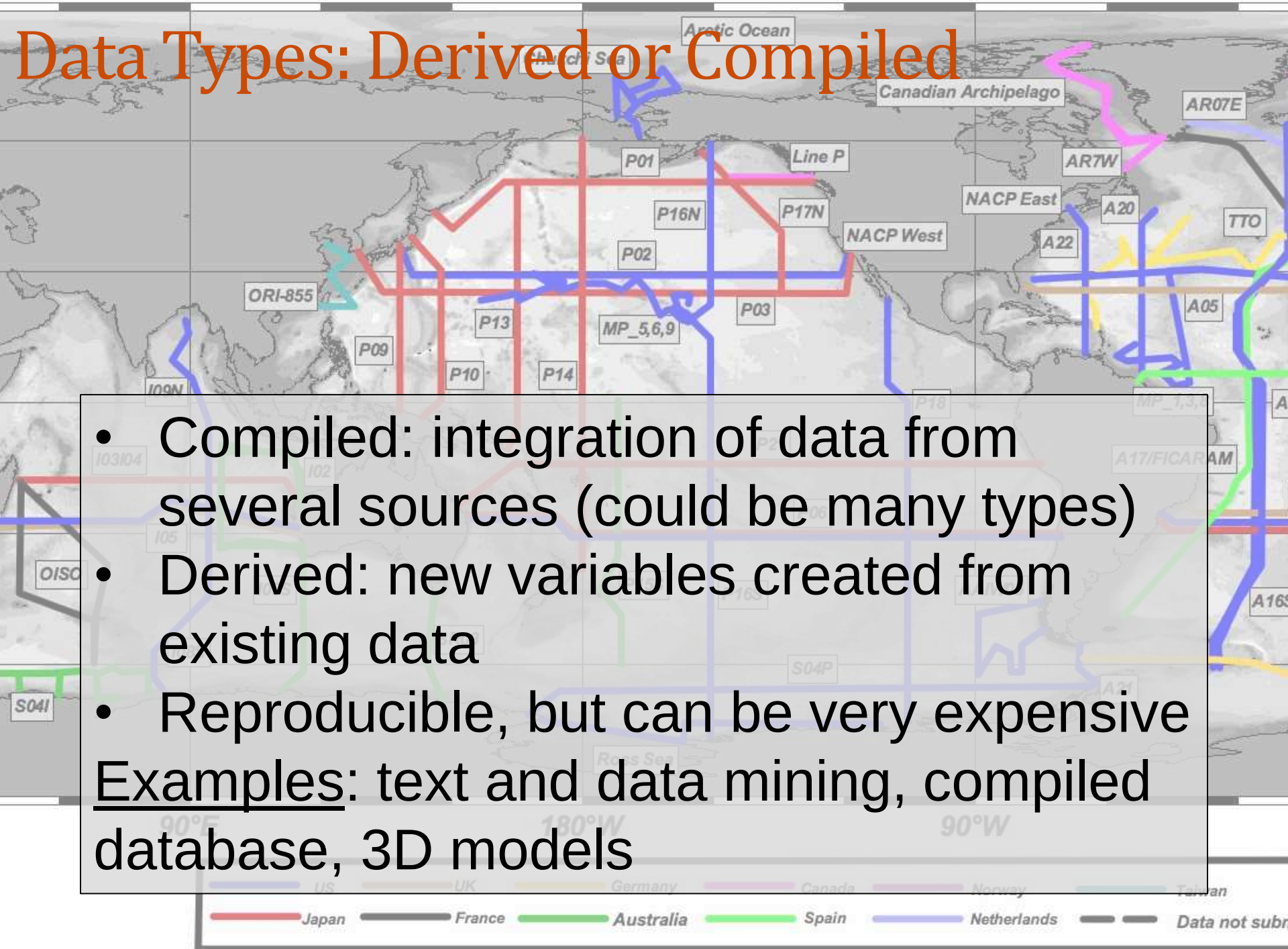
Data Types: Experimental



- Data collected under controlled conditions, *in situ* or laboratory-based
- Should be reproducible, but can be expensive

Examples: gene sequences, chromatograms, spectroscopy, microscopy, cell counts

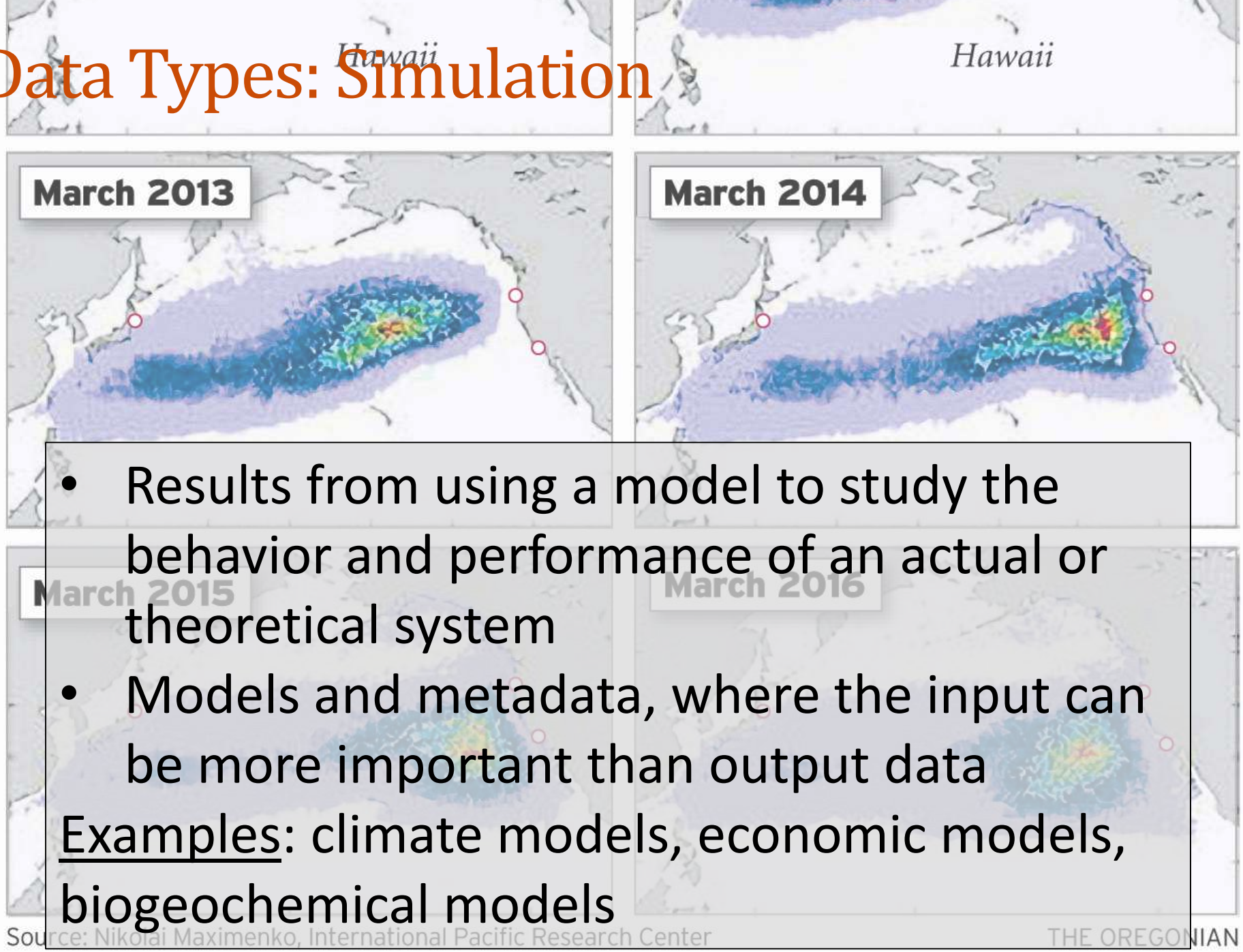
Data Types: Derived or Compiled



- Compiled: integration of data from several sources (could be many types)
- Derived: new variables created from existing data
- Reproducible, but can be very expensive

<u>Examples</u>: text and data mining, compiled database, 3D models

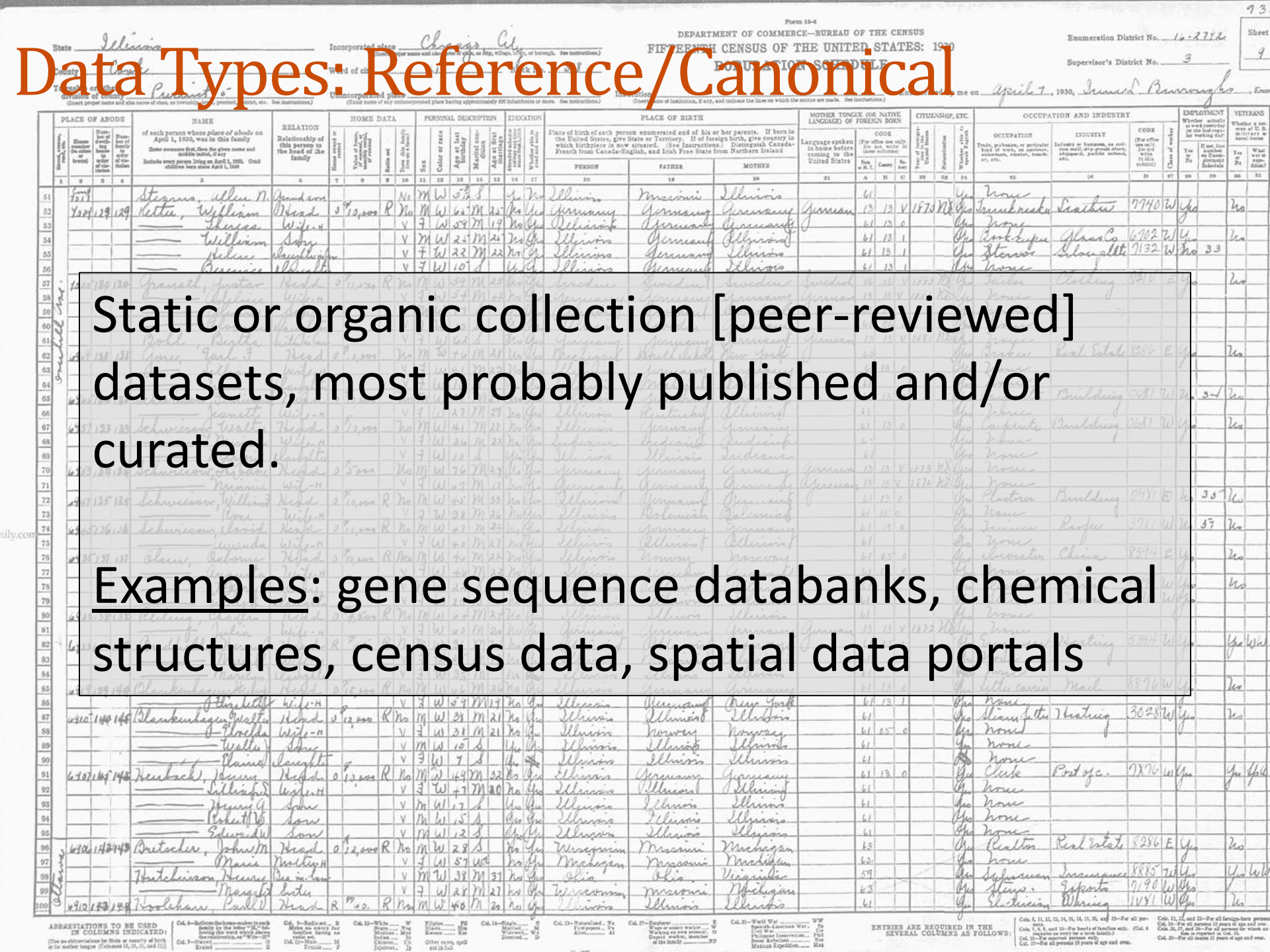
Data Types: Simulation



- Results from using a model to study the behavior and performance of an actual or theoretical system
- Models and metadata, where the input can be more important than output data

Examples: climate models, economic models, biogeochemical models

Data Types: Reference/Canonical



Static or organic collection [peer-reviewed] datasets, most probably published and/or curated.

Examples: gene sequence databanks, chemical structures, census data, spatial data portals

Data storage & preservation

About backups...

Plan for unexpected events

Metadata demonstration