



Research Data Management Survey, Concordia University

Concordia University Library's 15th Annual Research Forum

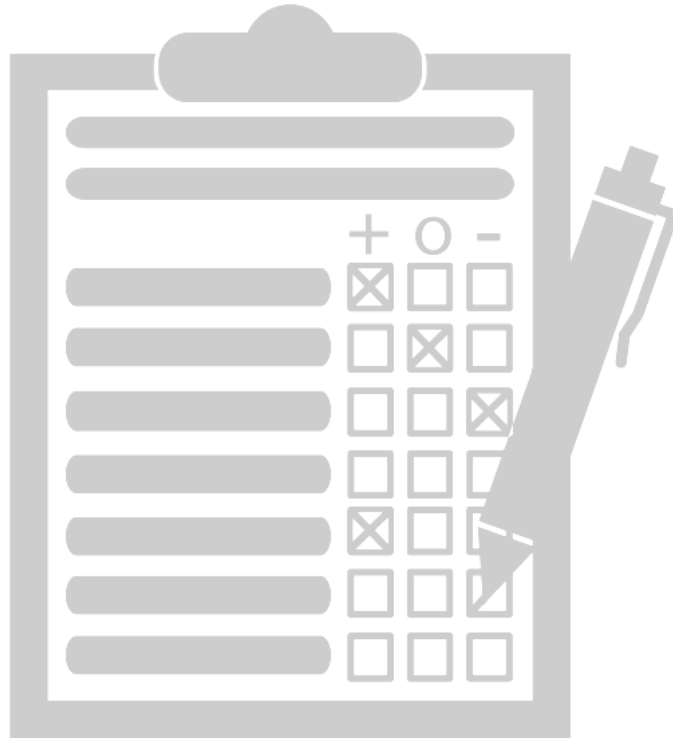
April 28, 2017

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Overview of the project

- Study of RDM practices and needs of Concordia's researchers
- Consisted of an online survey followed by in-person interviews
- Conducted in the fall of 2015 and winter of 2016
- Follow up to a smaller scale study done in 2013
- Why this study?
 - development of RDM services
 - raise awareness of local stakeholders
 - getting ready for the upcoming Tri-Agency policies

Survey



Annette Spithoven, the Noun Project

Survey methodology

Population:

all full-time faculty except for 3 social sciences departments already surveyed in 2013

Response rate:

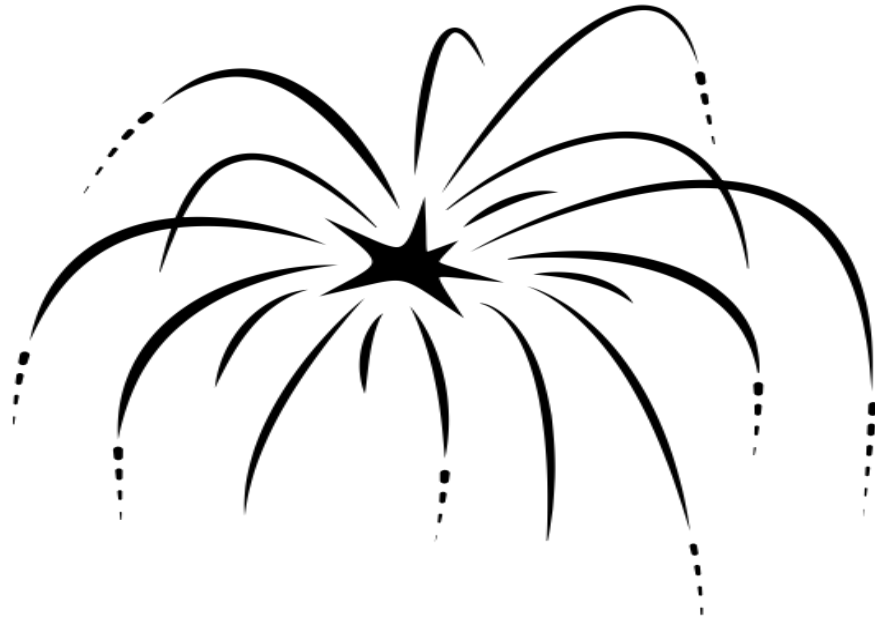
- Global rate is 19% (132 respondents out of 696 contacted)
- Response rate varies for each question

NOTE: Multiple answers were allowed (total > 100%)

Survey topics

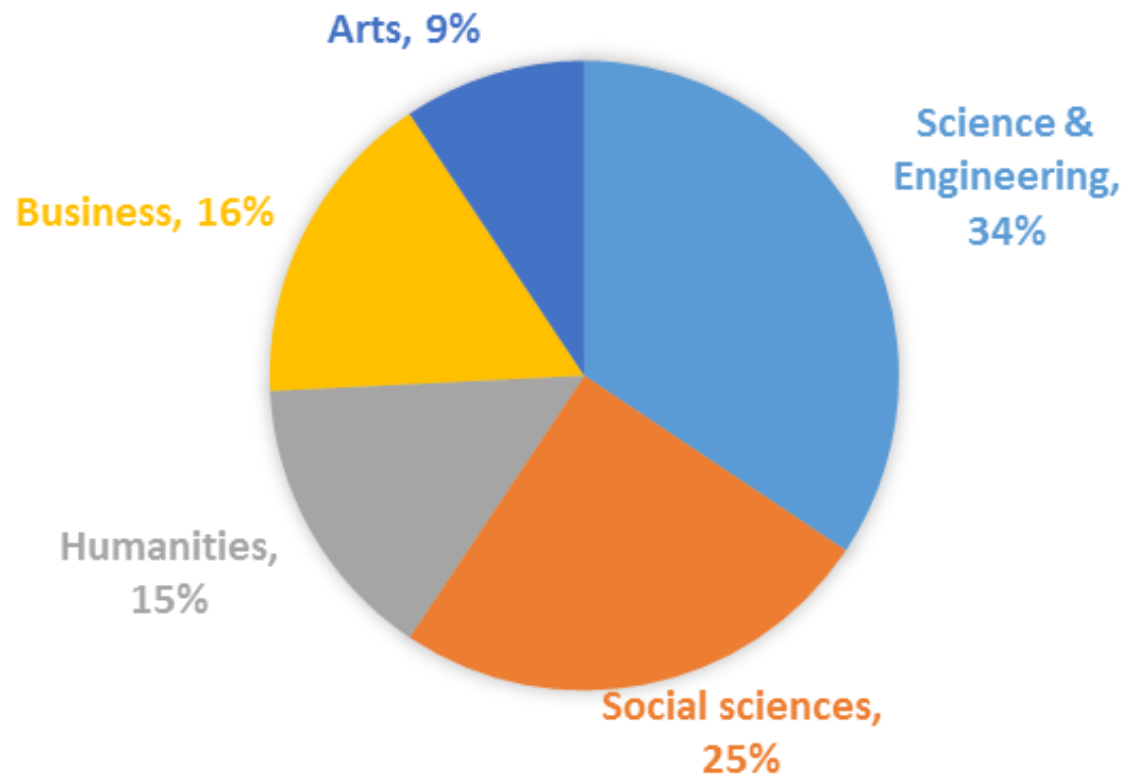
- Data collection and curation
- Data management
- Working with data: statistics, programming, & visualization
- Data workshops and assistance

Survey highlights

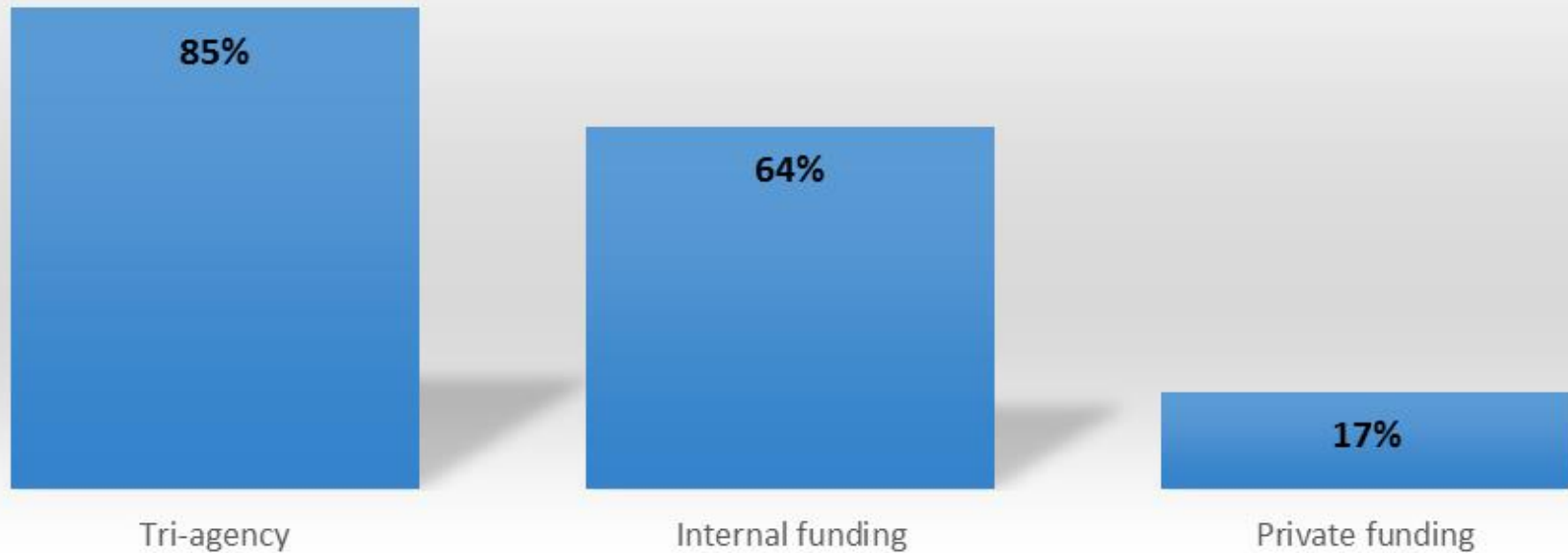


Created by Tracy Hudak
from Noun Project

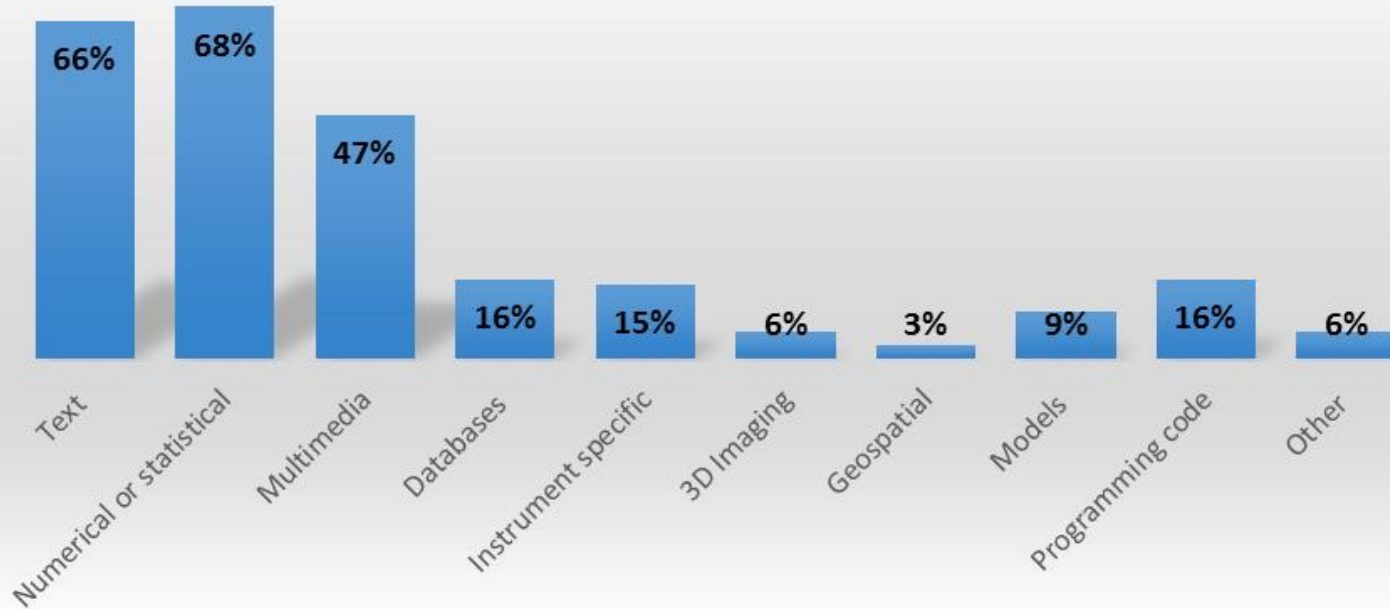
SURVEY SAMPLE BY DISCIPLINE



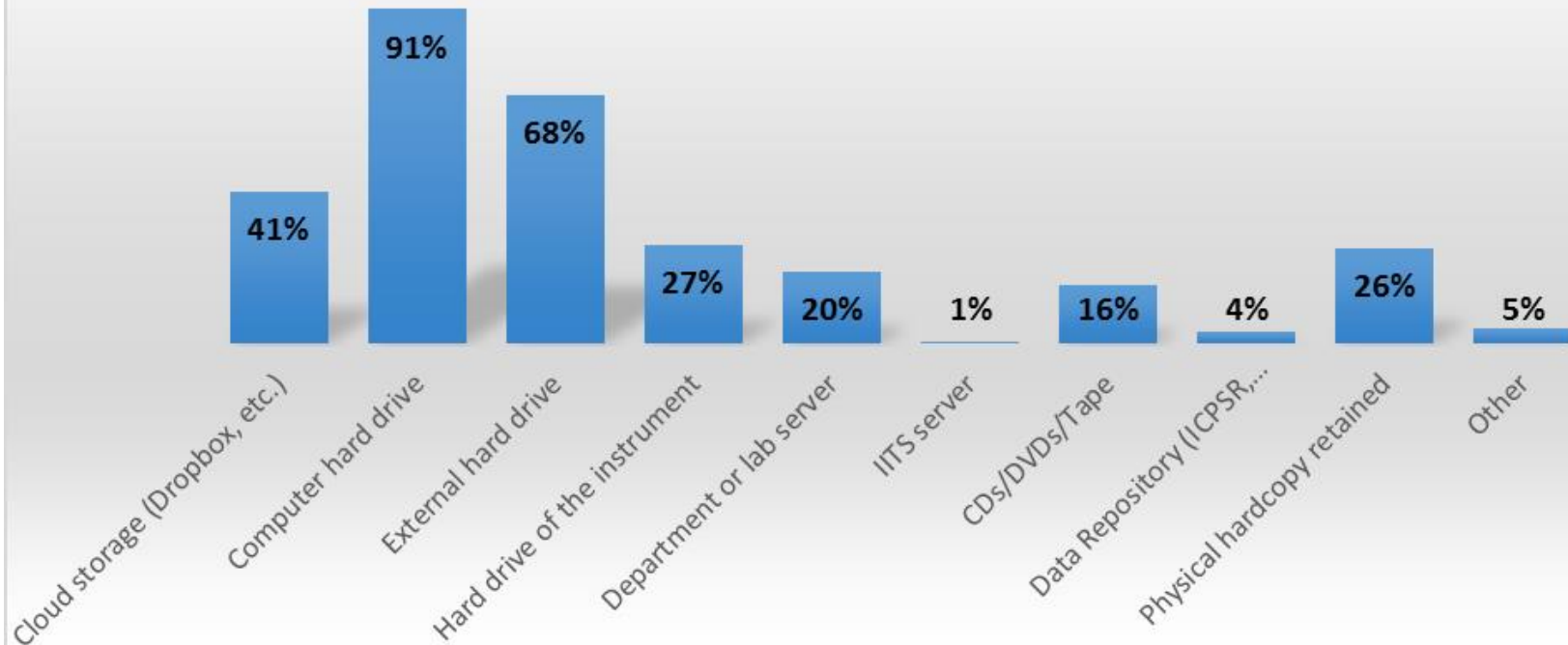
Tri-agency, internal and private funding (% of respondents)



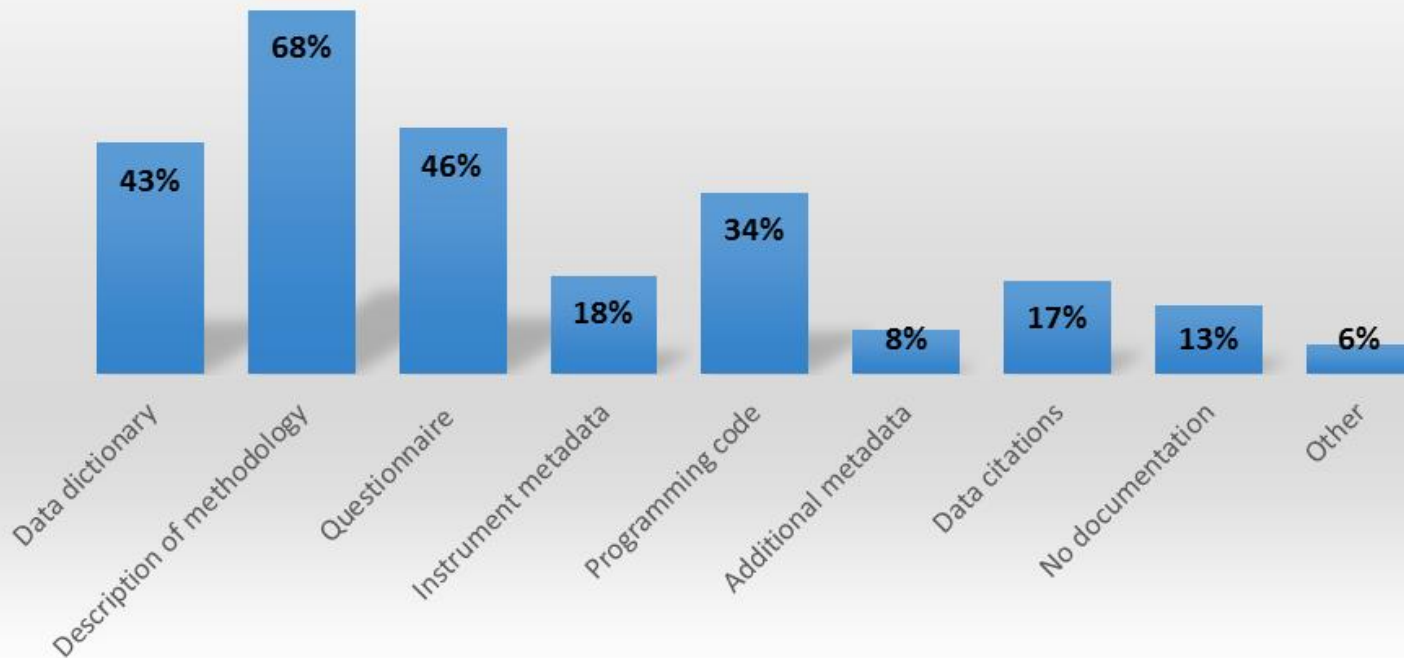
What type of data was collected or created for this specific project?



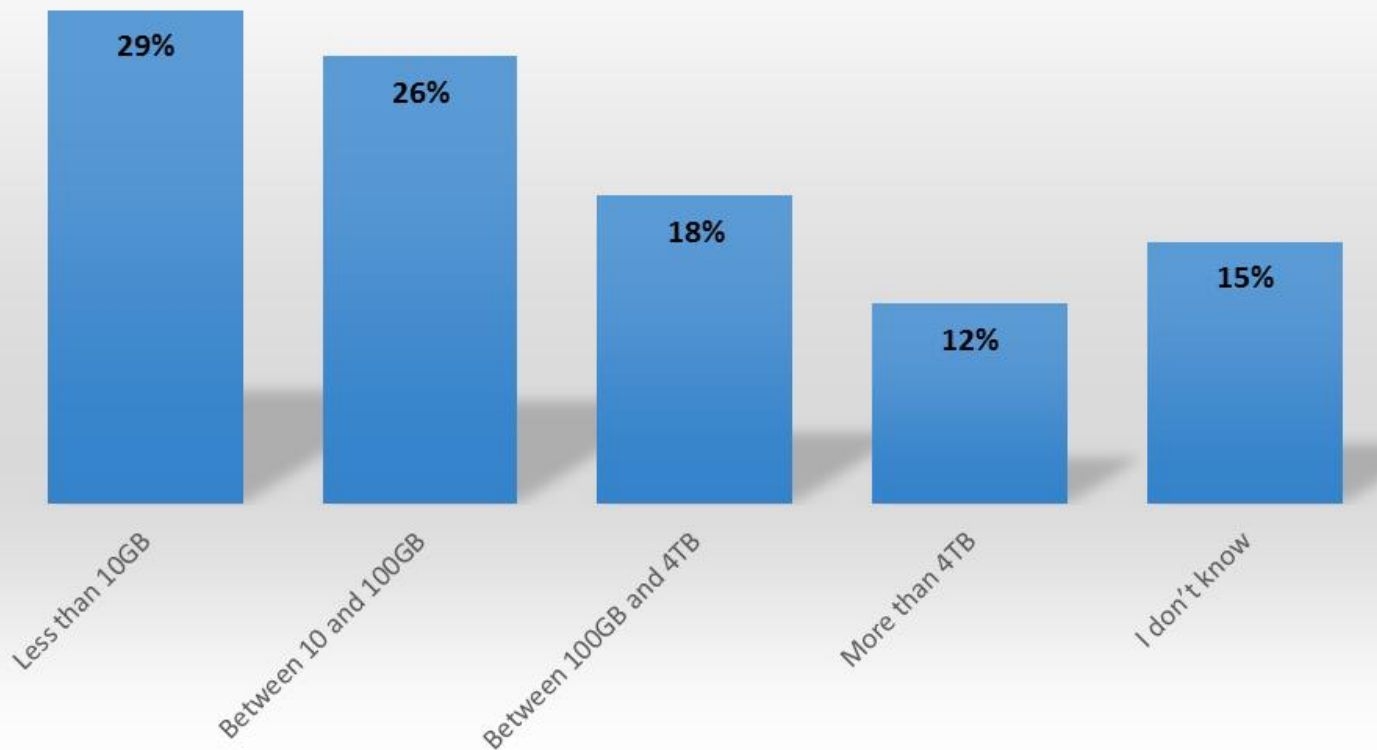
DURING the research project and data collection,
where do you store your working
dataset/electronic files?



What type of supporting documentation do you keep on your data?



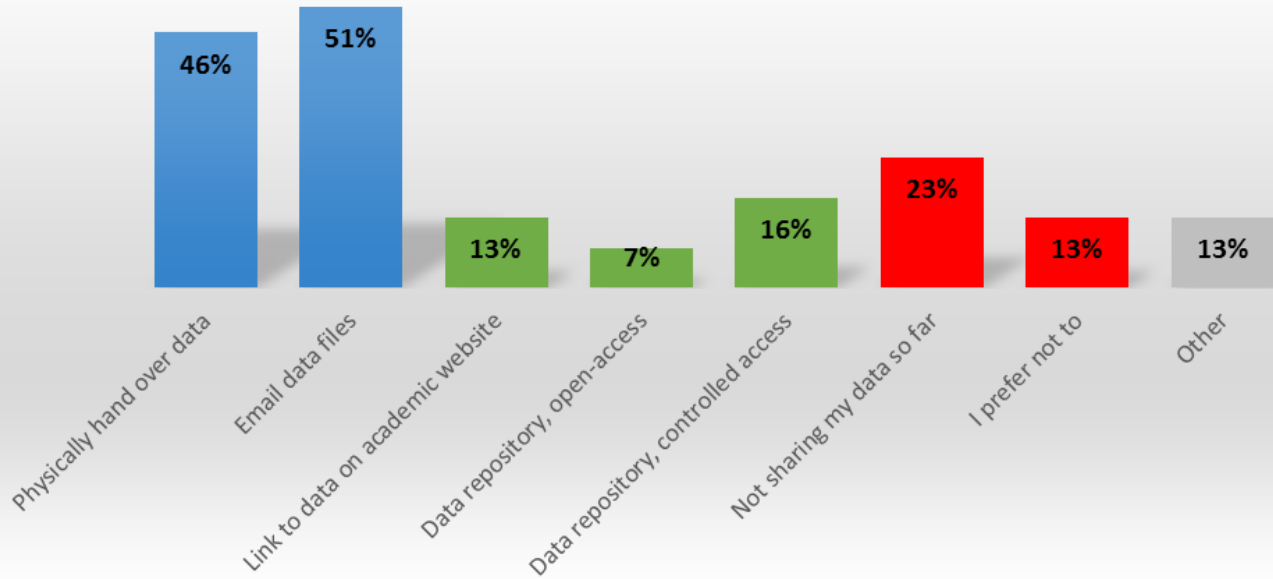
What is the approximate total size of this dataset?



After your research project is completed in what data repository would you consider archiving this dataset?



How do you share your research data with others?



- Shares data manually
- Shares data through data repository or website
- Currently does not share data

Interest in data management assistance or training at Concordia

Workshop/Resource	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Total interested	Not interested
Data management activities that will be required by grant funding agencies	43%	34%	77%	15%
Data management plan	30%	42%	72%	21%
Research collaboration software tools	29%	39%	69%	25%
Finding and accessing existing data sources	29%	34%	63%	23%
Data archiving	27%	43%	69%	22%
Data visualization	27%	44%	71%	22%
Digitization of paper records	27%	39%	65%	26%
Data sharing and access	23%	40%	63%	30%
Help in ensuring the confidentiality/anonymity of data on human participants	21%	28%	49%	29%
Data management workshop	19%	49%	68%	25%
Data documentation and metadata	18%	38%	56%	33%

Interviews



Gan Khoon Lay, the Noun Project

Interviews - Methodology

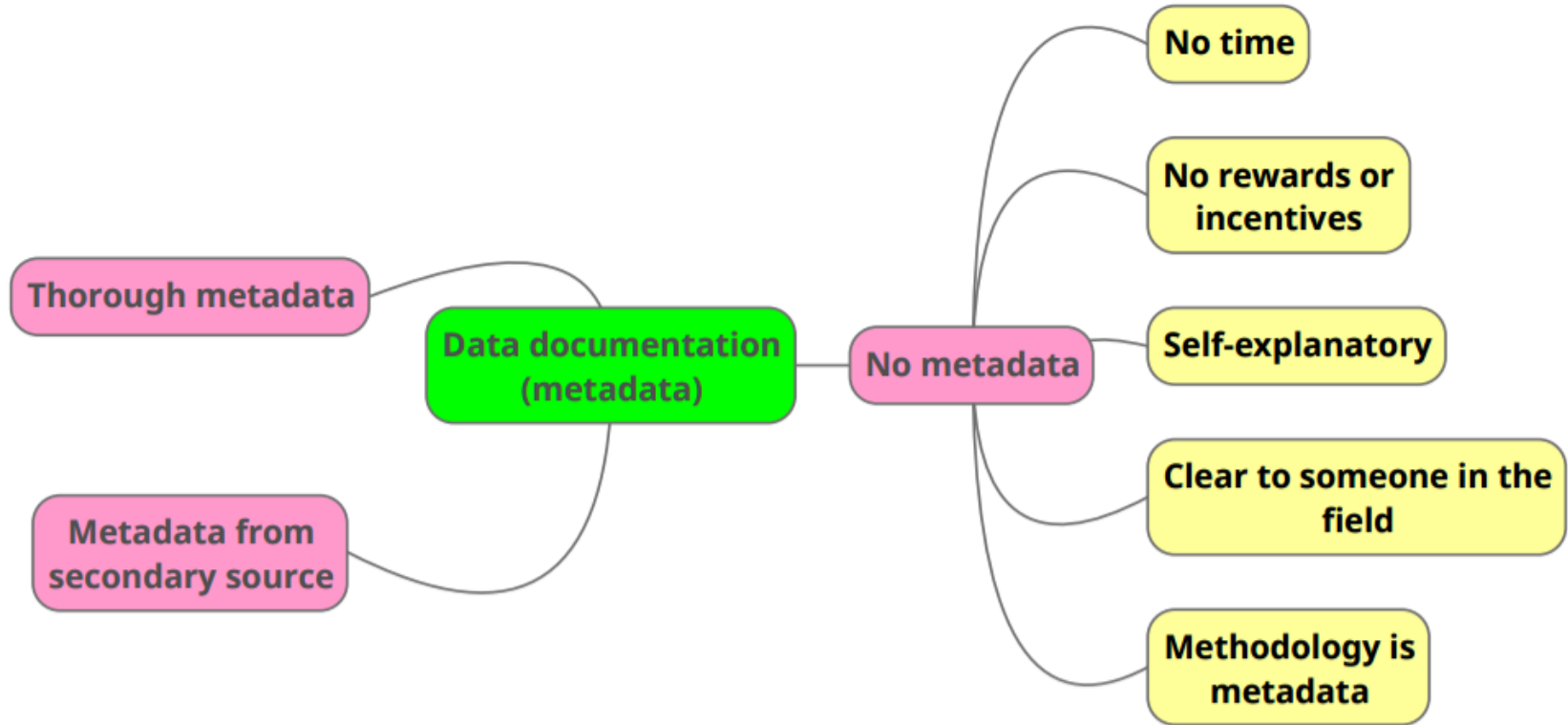
- Interview content adapted from:
 - McGowan, T. & Gibbs, T. A. (2009). ***Southampton Data Survey: Our Experiences & Lessons Learned*** [unpublished]. University of Southampton: UK.
- Descriptive and focused coding based on:
 - Saldaña, J. (2009) ***Coding Manual for qualitative researchers***. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Interviews - Methodology

Participants

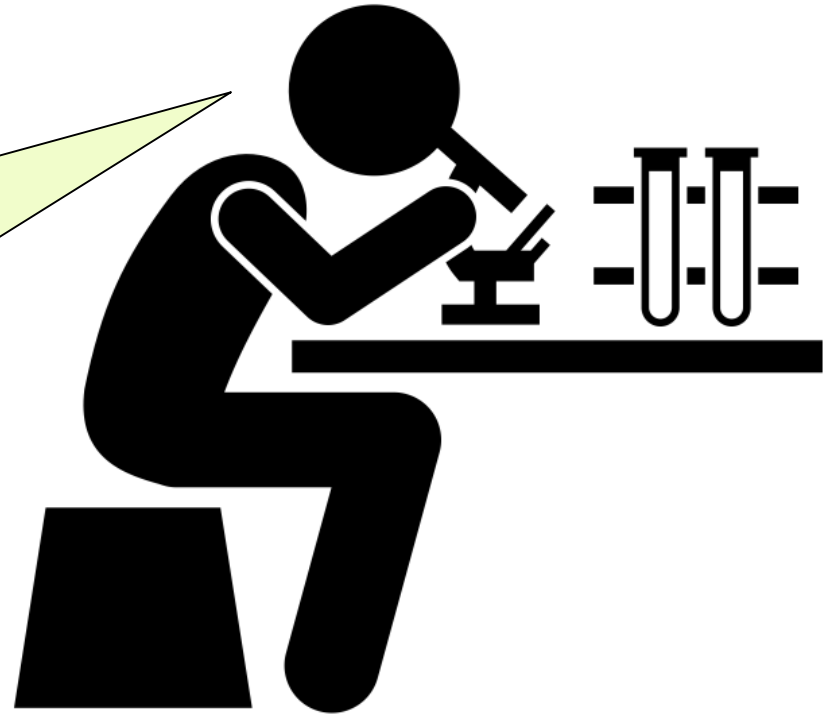
Disciplines	Departments	
Engineering	Building, Civil & Environmental Engineering	Computer science
Science	Physics	Exercise science
Business	Management	Supply Chain & Business Technology Management
Humanities	Communication studies	Études françaises
Fine Arts	Studio arts	Design & Computation Arts

Interviews – Results



Interviews – Results

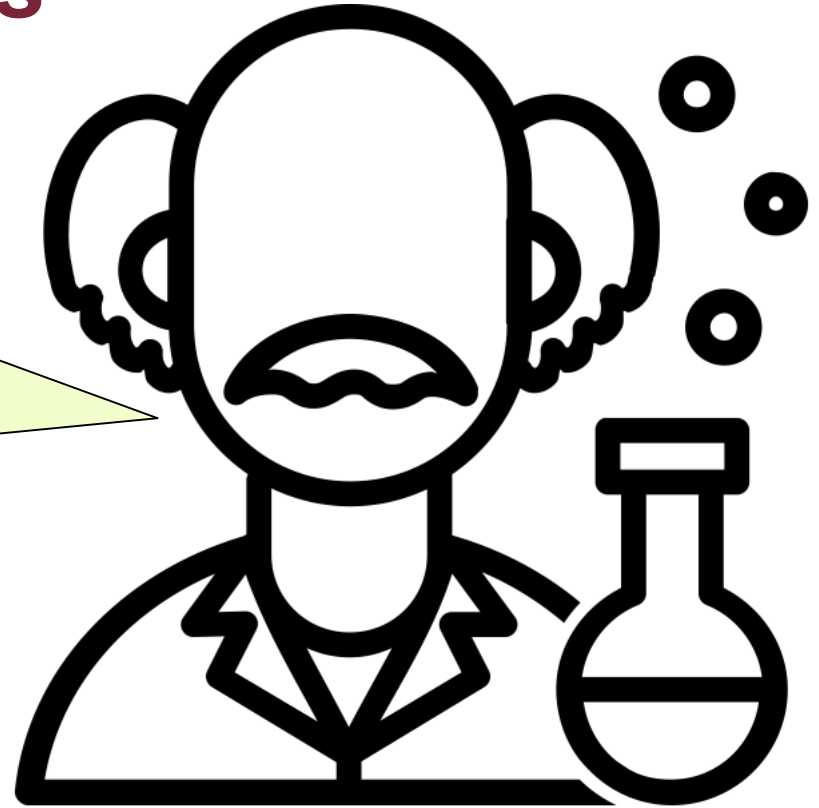
“documentation is gonna be (...) extra work for me and my team. And so, (...) I’m not really sure if you want to go that way because I prefer students to do scientific work and publish papers then, you know, be data managers.”



Gan Khoun Lay, the Noun Project

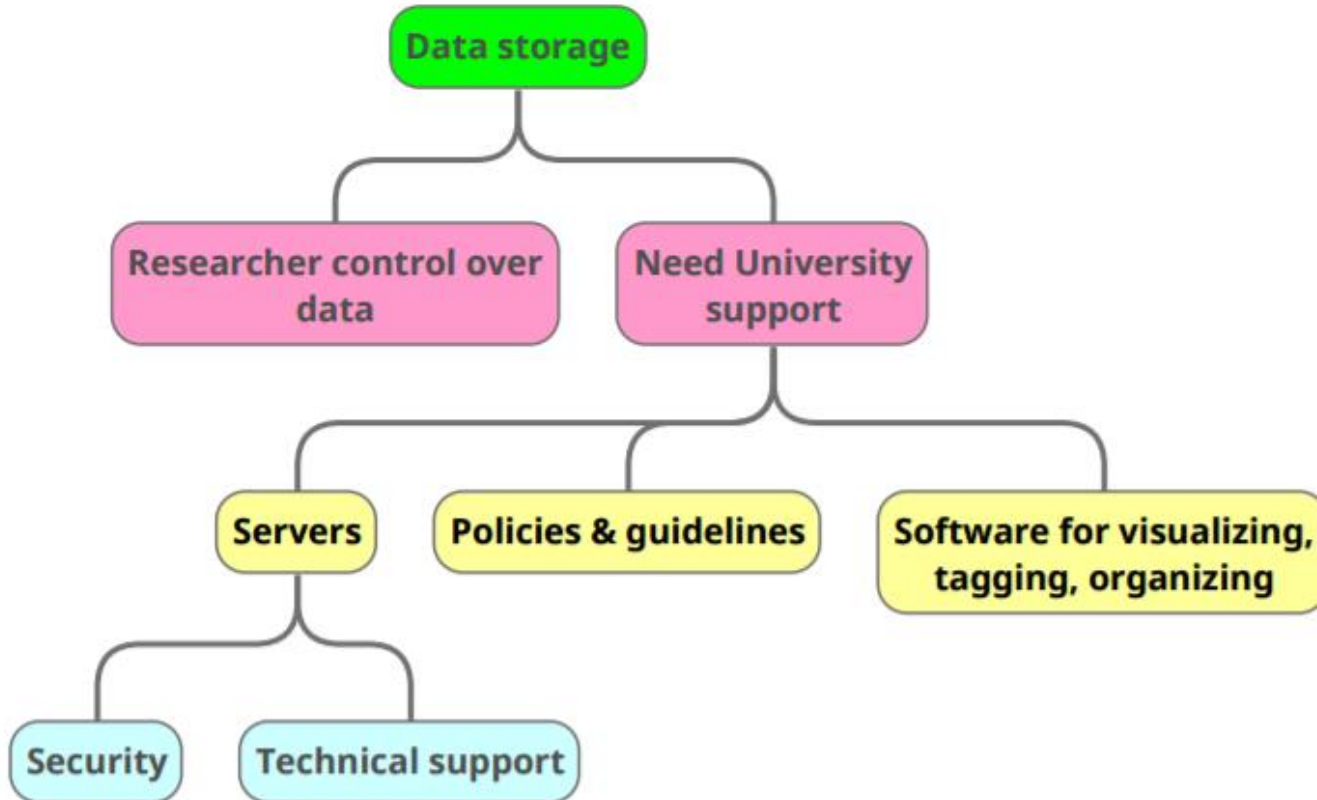
Interviews – Results

“If there was acknowledgement of sustainability and there were rewards for that, that would be fantastic. There’s more rewards for bringing new stuff in then there is rewards for careful preservation. And that’s my observation from 25 years here.”



Chameleon Design, the Noun Project

Interviews – Results



Interviews – Results

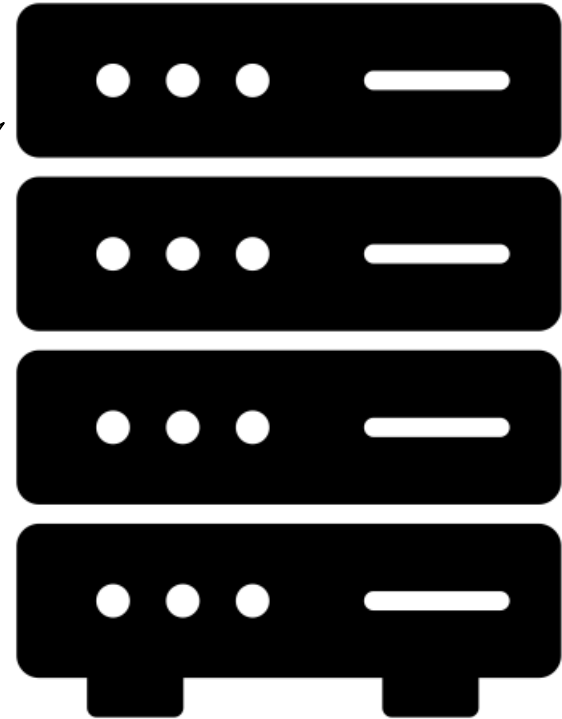
“We need an institution server (...). [W]e should have secured access with secured account for each research team, for each lab. (...) [T]here should be a flexibility [to accommodate] people with space needs. [We] need (...) a technical team supporting this server (...) someone to (...) check that there is enough available space, see if there’s problems, to fix the problem, to manage the access, the accounts, the codes, and make sure [it is] regularly backed up and whether there should be some (...) duplicate somewhere, to make sure everything’s safe.”



Pravin Unagar, the Noun Project

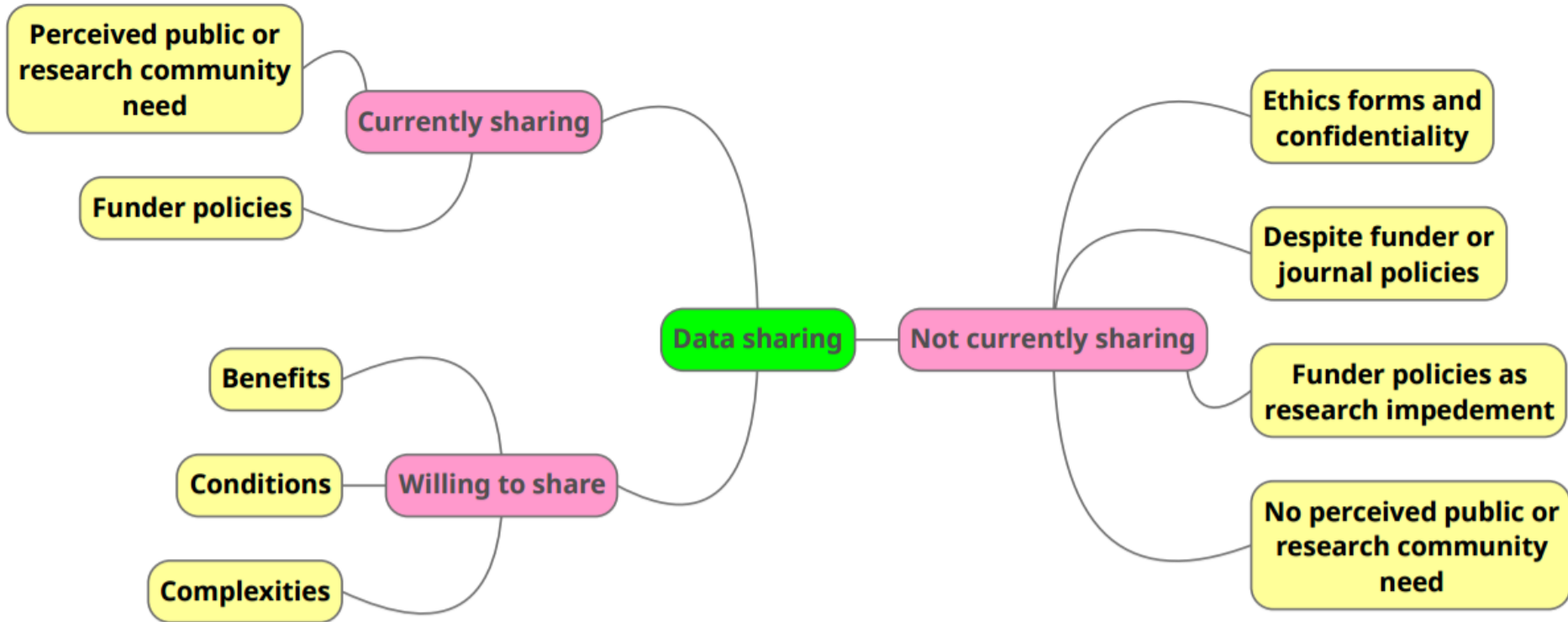
Interviews – Results

“Ça c’est une des raisons pour lesquelles le labo avait ses propres serveurs, c’est que on s’inquiétait un peu des délais pour pouvoir régler les problèmes et (...) des délais pour régler les problèmes (...) ça entrave les recherches, ça retarde les recherches et tout, donc, on veut le contrôle, (..) sur nos archives.”



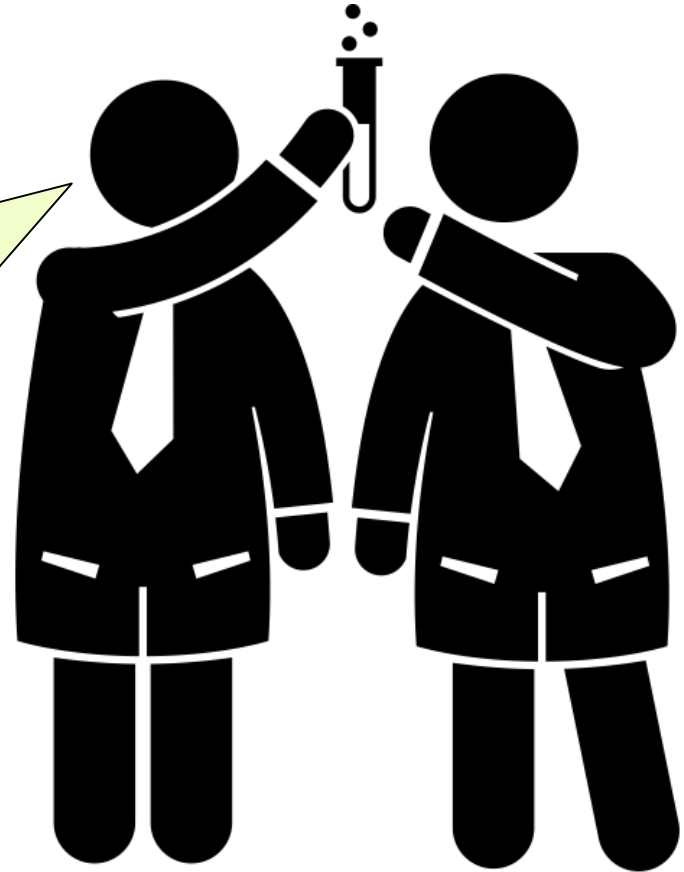
IconDots, the Noun Project

Interviews – Results



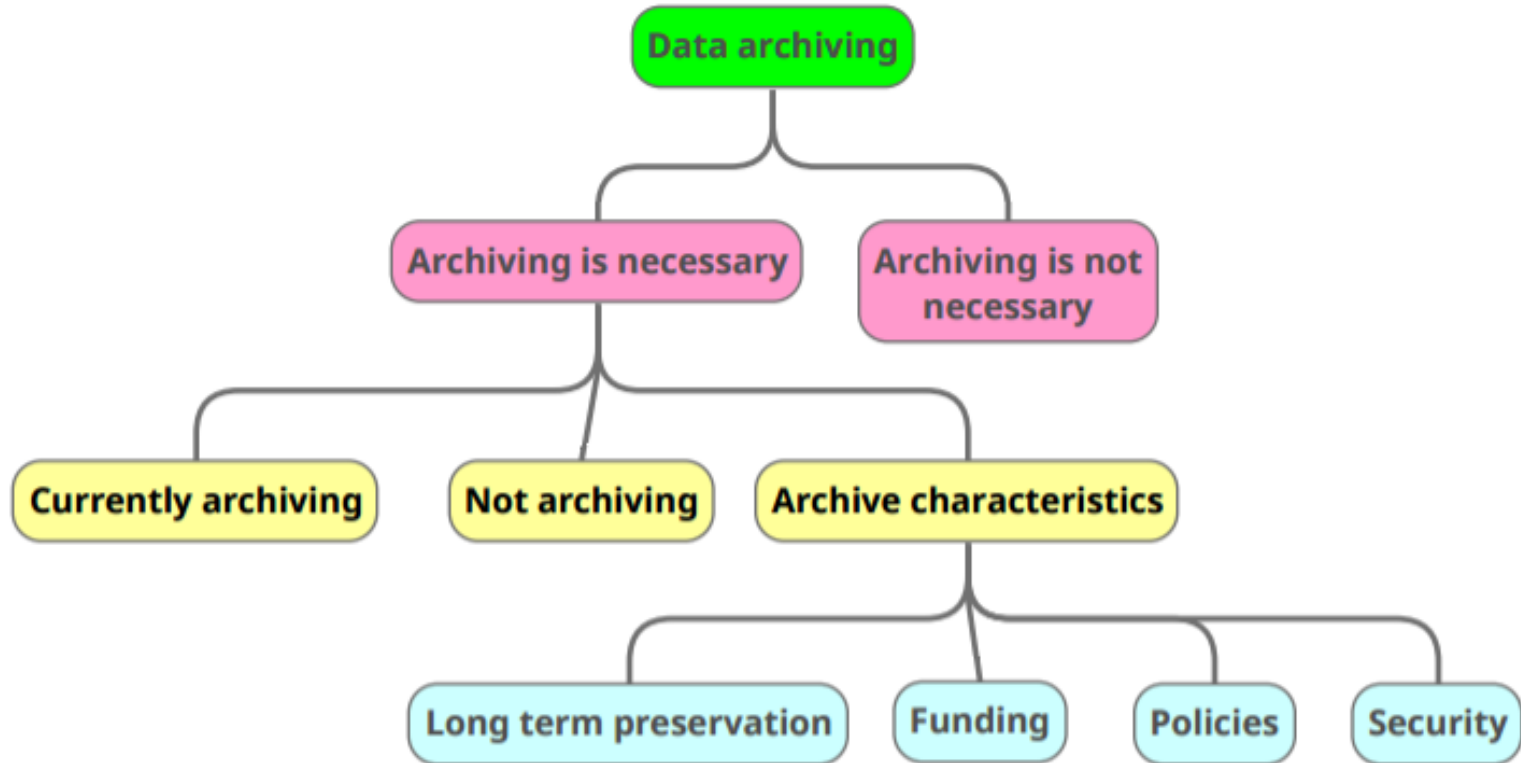
Interviews – Results

“get[ting] citations (...) is (...) how my university recognizes the value of what I’ve done. (...) I realize that if your article is valuable, people might cite it, but a lot of the time, the most valuable thing about an article is the data that was collected.”



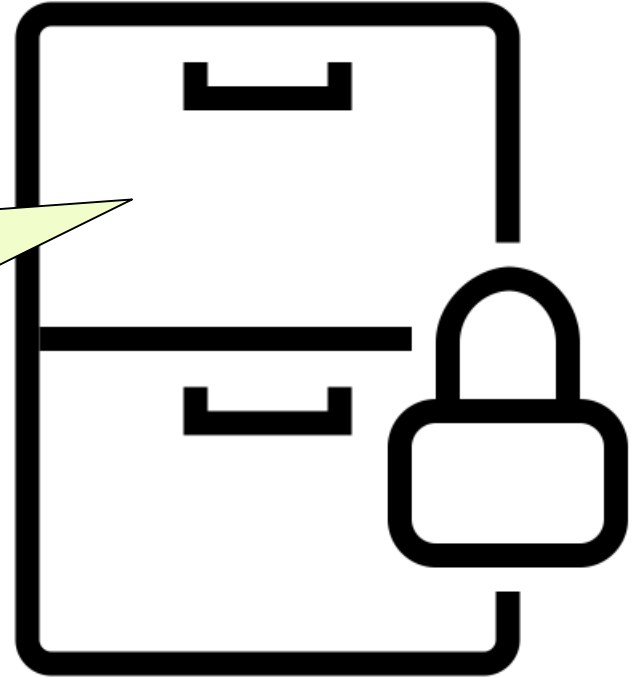
Gan Khoon Lay, the Noun Project

Interviews – Results



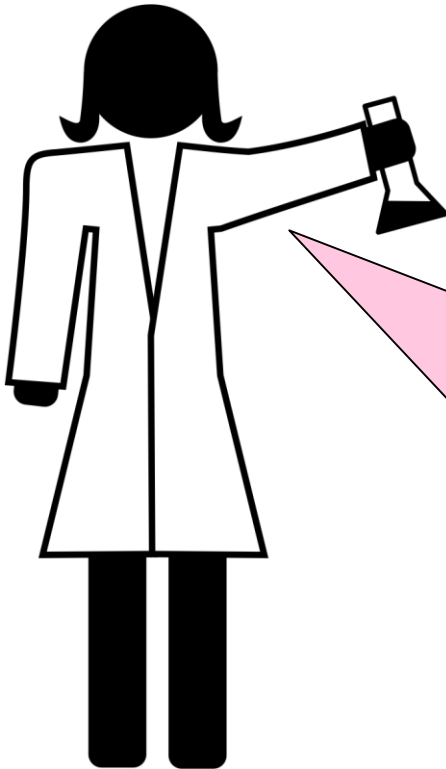
Interviews – Results

“ “[T]he funding doesn’t work that way. [They] pay you to do the project, and once the project’s over, [y]ou [get] zero support. And if the data is still there when someone starts up the machine the next time, good, (...).”



BraveBros, the Noun Project

Interviews – Results



Noun Project

Data workshops

“[A]s a researcher that really cares about data, I just feel like all of this is absolutely key, but I don’t know when I’d have the time to do it. That’s why I think this needs to be a boot camp, or it needs to be a one week course. I think that if it was presented (...) in the kind of right way, even giving people a certificate at the end of it so that they can say they have (...) completed a course in data management would be really good for somebody’s CV even, making it so that [there is] official acknowledgement of certain kind of skill acquisition.”

Conclusions

- Comparison with results from the common Canadian RDM survey shows that our results are consistent with those from other universities
- Researchers are aware of the benefits of RDM
- There is also some willingness to adopt good RDM practices and to share their data, but also some serious hurdles:
 - the lack of academic incentive for managing and sharing data;
 - the scarcity of necessary resources –both human and technological— necessary to curate their datasets;
 - the difficulty of dealing with confidentiality and ethics issues;
 - the desire, for some researchers, to keep a level of control on who will be using their data and for what purposes

Conclusions (continued)

Upcoming data management requirement from the Tri-Agency should be a turning point

- **more than 75%** of respondents that mention are interested in attending workshops on data activities funded by funding agencies.
- Incentives and resources should be made available by: funding agencies, universities and academic libraries



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