Title	Research Data Management Strategy
Issued By	Office of the Provost
Contact	Research Officer
Approved By	Brescia Council
Effective Date	January 27, 2023
Last Review	January 27, 2023
Next Review	Ongoing

Background

In 2021, The Tri-Agencies (Canadian Institute of Health Research; Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) launched the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy. This policy requires all institutions administering Tri-Agency funds to create an institutional Research Data Management (RDM) strategy.

Research data management is "the processes applied through the lifecycle of a research project to guide the collection, documentation, storage, sharing, and preservation of research data" (Tri-Agencies, 2021).

To develop Brescia's RDM strategy, a working group was formed in June 2022 with representation from the Beryl Ivey Library, Faculty, Research Ethics Board, Provost's Office, Advanced Learning & Teaching Centre, and Information Technology Services.

Brescia's RDM Strategy shares the approach Brescia will take over the next five years to educate and support our research community in RDM.

The draft strategy has been presented to the Research & Scholarship Committee, Library Committee and Brescia Council for feedback and approval.

Guiding Principles

Brescia University College recognizes the inherent value and importance of research data across all disciplines. We are committed to supporting researchers in the development and use of best RDM practices, following the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) guiding principles.

We recognize that data created in research collaboration with Indigenous Peoples must be managed in partnership with Indigenous communities, organizations, and collectives, using principles developed by Indigenous communities such as the First Nations Principles of OCAP and the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance. The unique rights, interests, and circumstances of Indigenous Peoples must be acknowledged, affirmed, and followed.

Scope

The Research Data Management Strategy applies to all individuals at Brescia, no matter their rank and status, who conduct research at Brescia. This includes, but is not limited to, researchers, research assistants, individuals hired on a contractual basis to assist with research, visiting scholars, students, adjunct faculty, contract faculty, staff, or research fellows.

Accountability

Brescia's Research Officer and Director of Library Services, in consultation with the Provost, are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the RDM Strategy. Working Groups will be created on an ad-hoc basis as need is identified.

Strategy

Within our context as a small, undergraduate-focused institution, Brescia currently has limited support for RDM. Our Strategy focuses on educating Brescia researchers and building institutional capacity.

Goal 1: Build RDM Awareness
- Conduct survey of Brescia researchers to identify existing RDM practices and inform the development of education and supports. It is recognized that data differs across disciplines. The information from the survey will be used to develop institutional RDM standards for Brescia. Provide education to Brescia Researchers to increase awareness of best practices for RDM, including RDM Plans and available data repositories.
- Ensure Brescia researchers working in collaboration with Indigenous communities, organizations, and/or collectives have received appropriate training on the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty and governance.

Goal 2: Build capacity for institutional RDM support
- Create and implement an RDM institutional support plan to ensure RDM is supported and enhanced at Brescia.
- Document existing practices for data storage and security at Brescia.
- Document and share best practices for electronic data storage and security with the Brescia community.
- Create RDM-related guidelines and procedures as need is identified.

Timeline

Brescia's RDM Strategy is a living document and will be reviewed each year, adjusting to meet Brescia's needs in research and work within our institutional capacity. As we move forward in RDM work, timelines of specific initiatives to support RDM will be added to this document.

References

Tri-Agencies. (2021). Tri-Agency research data management policy – frequently asked questions. Government of Canada. Retrieved September 21, 2022, from https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97609.html.