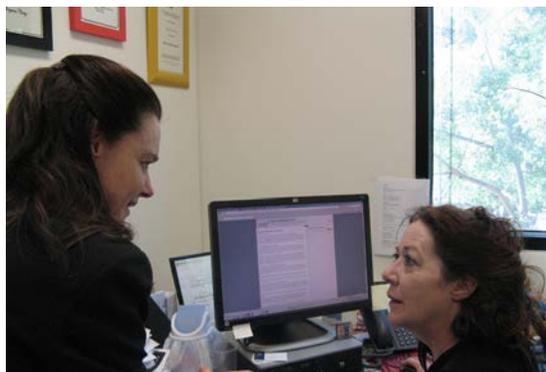Monash University Library and the Monash e-Research Centre work with researchers to manage data more effectively

What is research data?

All researchers work with data and/or datasets, but what you call data will depend on your discipline. As a humanities scholar you might talk about your primary sources or texts. If your research is in a social science, you may think in terms of survey results, interviews and statistics. You will probably have different terms again for the outputs of your experiments and observations if you are a scientist.

Research data can be qualitative or quantitative, and comes in print, digital and physical formats. Sometimes research involves using existing data, or you may be collecting or creating new data yourself. In all cases, your research data needs to be cared for so that the results of your research can be validated and built upon.

Common considerations

- Copyright, intellectual property (IP) and ethics, and how these relate to your research data
- Where to securely store digital data and how to back it up
- Methods of organising data and related documentation
- Sharing your data – at the right time and with the right people
- Maximising the impact of your research by disseminating the data or basic information about it
- Making arrangements for data at the end of your research project

"For some kinds of research, data must be kept for more than five years"

Why is it important to manage your research data?

Funding agencies and publishers expect you to have well-managed data that can be cited, validated and used by others for further creation of knowledge.

Data management is an integral part of research. The *Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research* (2007) makes you and the University jointly responsible for effective research data management.
www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/r39syn.htm

Your research data must be kept for at least five years from the time the project is finished or you publish the results. For some kinds of research, data must be kept for much longer, or even permanently. Managing your data well will save you time and effort in the long run, and Monash University has many services available to help you.

Information and advice

Information and guidelines
The Research Data Management website is your main source of information. It contains guidelines, templates, contacts and links to further resources.
monash.edu/library/researchdata

Advice
Advice is available to faculties, departments, teams and individuals, including referrals to other units across the University, to help resolve your research data management issues.
Email: researchdata@monash.edu

Contact librarians also work with researchers on data planning and management activities. After gaining a basic understanding of your needs, librarians can suggest further contacts, information resources, tools, services and strategies.
monash.edu/library/skills/contacts/

The Monash e-Research Centre (MeRC) advises researchers on technical aspects of data management, including storage and back-up. They provide software tools to help you organise and document your digital data, and specialise in enabling cross-institutional collaboration.
Email: merc@monash.edu

Professional development
Higher degree by research (HDR) students can attend research data management seminars run as part of the Monash Institute of Graduate Research Skills Essentials program. These seminars cover data management planning and provide hands-on experience with tools for storing and organising digital data.
my.monash.edu/news-and-events/bookings/research/

Other events are organised on request. Please contact researchdata@monash.edu to discuss your faculty or department's requirements.

Monash Large Research Data Store (LaRDS)

LaRDS provides digital storage for researchers (including HDR students) with large and more modest amounts of digital data.

LaRDS offers secure storage at no cost for standard users. Your data is stored securely and backed up daily to two data centres in different locations. You can access your data remotely if required and easily request more space if you need it.

There are a number of different ways to upload and manage research data in LaRDS. Please contact MeRC at merc@monash.edu to identify the technical solutions that best suit your needs.

Disseminating your data

Letting others know about your research data, and making the data available, can increase the impact of your research and enhance your opportunities for citation and collaboration. Often the data itself cannot be made available for legal, ethical or commercial reasons, but you may still be able to provide information about the data to interested parties.

The Monash University Research Repository disseminates information about your research data online and provides links to downloads where these are available. The Research Repository gives your data a permanent web link for citation, and promotes your research through web and commercial services like Google Scholar, Research Data Australia and Data Citation Index.
arrow.monash.edu

The Library and MeRC can also advise on contributing data to discipline-based data archives or repositories in Australia and overseas.

MONASH University
Library

More information

In person
Speak to your contact librarian

ask.monash
ask.monash.edu (Check frequently asked questions)

Phone
03 9905 9917

Email
researchdata@monash.edu

Web
monash.edu/library/researchdata

MONASH University
Library

Managing your research data

GROUP OF EIGHT

monash.edu/library