

Tyndale University Data Management Strategy

Background

The Canadian Tri-Agencies (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR) released the [Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy](#) in March 2021. The objective of the policy is to support Canadian research excellence by promoting sound Research Data Management (RDM) and data stewardship practices. Each postsecondary institution and research hospital eligible to administer CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC funds is required to create and post an institutional RDM Strategy.

The three main components of the policy include:

- Development of an Institutional RDM Strategy;
- Requirement for researchers to complete Data Management Plans for specific grants; and
- Institutions to provide infrastructure for Data deposit.

Guiding Principles for Tyndale University

Tyndale University serves approximately 1,500 students annually and is eligible to administer Tri-council funds. We are very pleased to support a high standard of quality ethical research outputs for a university of our size.

The [Tri-Agency Statement of Principles](#) on Data Management states that data management should be performed in accordance with the requirements of the [Canadian Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – 2nd edition](#) (TCPS 2). Tyndale’s [Research Ethics Board](#) monitors the alignment with the TCPS 2 and other funding bodies. TCPS 2’s policy guidelines are based on three core principles which Tyndale University recognises as guiding principles for the ethical conduct of research and data management:

1. respect for persons,
2. concern for welfare,
3. concern for justice.

Tyndale University’s [Research Ethics Manual](#) notes that “these principles are consonant with Tyndale’s values as a Christian institution” (Research Ethics Manual, 2019, p. 5). The note is worth quoting at length:

For example, we respect persons and are concerned for their welfare because we believe all people are made in God’s image and we are concerned for justice because justice and righteousness are an intrinsic part of God’s character and actions in Scripture. These three principles impact the way we do our recruitment, the importance of seeking permission from

human participants before using their data for our research purposes, how careful we are in preserving their anonymity, how we treat our participants during the research, and how we treat everyone equitably and fairly, and so on. Tyndale's Mission Statement applies to research ethics as much as it applies to everything we do as an institution: Tyndale is dedicated to the pursuit of truth, to excellence in teaching, learning and research, for the enriching of mind, heart and character, to serve the church and the world for the glory of God.

(Research Ethics Manual, 2019, p. 5)

Flourishing and stewardship are central concepts in Tyndale University's mission statement and values. Tyndale University welcomes this opportunity to steward research data responsibly and promote practices which contribute to the flourishing of public research and scholarship.

Scope

The institutional Data Management Strategy (DMS) for Tyndale University is housed within the Office of the Provost, led by the University Research Officer and approved by the Tyndale Senate. The strategy applies to all scholarly activity, research and knowledge production carried out by faculty, staff and students at Tyndale University.

Stakeholders

Tyndale University has identified a number of stakeholders and consulted with them in the creation of the DMS. Tyndale regularly partners with other bodies in research and knowledge production and internal and external stakeholders are part of the consultation process.

Internal Stakeholders:

- Doctor of Ministry Program
- Faculty Representatives: research project advisors, undergraduate honours & graduate thesis/dissertation supervisors,
- Faculty Research Committee
- Research Ethics Board
- The Tyndale Centre for Pastoral Imagination
- Tyndale Academic Press
- Tyndale University Library
- Tyndale Intercultural Ministries Centre

External Stakeholders

- [Centre for Community Based Research](#)
- [NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community](#)

Assess Current Data Management practices at Tyndale University

Internal Stakeholders were consulted about current Data Management Practices and existing supports in the summer of 2023. External Stakeholders will be consulted in the fall of 2023. The Office of the Provost will collate this data and map them against Tri-agency Research Data Management best practices and principles, the work will be completed by December 31, 2023.

Awareness and Development

In the spring of 2024 the Provost will strike an ad hoc Research Data Management task force, facilitate a gap analysis and in consultation with internal and external stakeholders develop a Data Management plan to address the following:

- Raise awareness of Staff and Faculty on campus of principles and best practice
- Provide training for grant writers and researchers
- Review existing policies in relation to:
 - Data management planning
 - Active data storage
 - Data deposit into repository storage
 - Long-term preservation storage
 - Data access and sharing
 - Data retention
 - Data and metadata quality and standards
 - Privacy, ethical and intellectual property considerations
 - Sensitive data considerations
 - Indigenous data sovereignty considerations

Define a Roadmap

The first draft of the Data Management Plan will be available for review in the summer of 2024. This will be a living document, subject to a regular review cycle (yet to be determined) and published on the Tyndale University website research pages [here](#).