

TIGER TIPS

RESOURCES FOR AUBURN RESEARCHERS

Budgeting for Research Data Management Costs

Major funding organizations such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) have incorporated data management plans into the grant submission process. Moreover, even research that is not funded by federal agencies may be subject to data retention and sharing policies, and a sound data management plan makes it easier to meet these requirements. It is important to recognize that data management incurs costs. These costs should be taken into account when planning to ensure sufficient resources are available.

Costs associated with research data management include:

- Additional personnel for data-related tasks
- Data services such as transcription and digitization
- Server space for storage, backup, and archiving
- Specialized software
- Professional curation of data prior to sharing/dissemination
- Costs associated with data hosting, including repository fees

Some of these costs may be budgeted into the grant itself. Ask the funding agency how costs associated with research data management should be included in the project proposal, as certain agencies have already established procedures. For example, the [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) lists “Publication/Documentation/Dissemination” as an allowable line item on the proposal budget (Chapter II(vi)(b)). The following allowable costs listed under that heading pertain to research data management:

- Cleanup, documentation, storage and indexing of data and databases
- Development, documentation and debugging of software
- Storage, preservation, documentation, indexing, etc. of physical specimens, collections, or fabricated items

For more information on budgeting data management expenses, see the following resources:

[Provide Budget Information for Your Data Management Plan](#)

[UK Data Service – Data Management Costing Tool and Checklist](#)