



# Which Data Should Never be Archived?

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“ Not all data are worth keeping, so it is necessary to *appraise and select* data that will be kept. The library must work with the data generators and the user community to establish guidelines and policies to assist in making this decision.”

# Reasons for Preserving Data

- Reuse for your own future research
- Funding Agency Requirements
- Verification
- Future use by other researchers

Tjalsma, Heiko and Jeroen Rombouts. Selection of Research Data: guidelines for appraising and selecting research data. Den Haag en delft. Stichting Surf, Data Archiving and Networked Services, 2011

# Preconditions for Data Preservation

- Technical reasons for not maintaining data
  - Data formats
  - Software
  - Hardware
- Metadata
- Clarity on intellectual property rights
  - Who owns the data?

- Infrastructure available?
  - Data archive
  - Institutional or thematic repository
- How much will it cost?



# Reasons for *Not* Preserving Data

- Reduce obsolete or redundant data
- When storage costs exceed the cost of reproducing or regenerating the data
- Data have little value after the decision, product, or improvement has been made
- Multiple versions?
  - Not all versions need to be archived

Environmental Data Management at NOAA: Archiving, Stewardship, and Access. Committee on Archiving and Accessing Environmental and Geospatial Data at NOAA, National Research Council, 2007.

# Research Question:

What kind of health research data has archival value and what kind of data should not be preserved?

# Methodology

- Semi-structured interviews
- Interview faculty members in Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta
- Ethics approval sought



# Interview Questions

- What type of data do you collect?
- How long do you retain the data? Why?
- Do you think other people could use your data?
- Do you think your data should be stored for permanent use?
- Do you plan to make your data available for other people to use?



Thank you

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