2017 Data-Support Library News

DeWitt Wallace Library

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Library provides increased data support

As Macalester scholars increasingly turn toward quantitative, data-intensive research methods, the library, in collaboration with ITS, is actively assisting students and faculty to find, manage, and store data.

In spring 2013, staff from the library and ITS formed a group to look at how to support scholarship by making it easier to work with data. The group has focused on: providing resources for discovering existing data sources; promoting best-practices in the organization, access, re-use, and preservation of data; and providing a means for storing and making accessible Macalester-created data sets.

So far, the group has contacted academic departments and other data 'stakeholders' on campus to discover opportunities for collaboration. We have created guides highlighting data best practices in the areas of preservation, management and the ethical use of data. We have explored how currently available resources/tools on campus, such as Digital Commons, CONTENTdm and Google Apps, might be used to manage and preserve data for use in research and instruction.

If you've got questions on the activities of this group, contact Aaron Albertson (albertson@macalester.edu) or Ron Joslin (joslin@macalester.edu).

Members of the Library Data Group:

Library:
- Aaron Albertson
- Ellen Holt-Werle
- Ron Joslin
- Johan Oberg

ITS:
- Josh Allen
- Brad Belbas

Geography:
- Ashley Nepp

DID YOU KNOW:
Executive orders signed by President Obama this spring require that all government data and data resulting from government funded scientific research and data be made available to the public. View Chronicle of Higher Education article.