

Call for Participation - SURA Research Data Management Dataverse Pilot Project

The SURA Research Data Management (RDM) group has decided to pursue a multiple institution pilot implementation of the Dataverse Network (<http://thedata.org/>). The Dataverse Network is an open source application that facilitates the ability to publish, share, reference, extract and analyze research data. It helps to make research data available to others, and allows the replication of others information. Researchers, data authors, publishers, data distributors, and affiliated institutions all receive appropriate credit. A Dataverse Network hosts multiple dataverses. Each dataverse contains studies or collections of studies, and each study contains cataloging information that describes the data plus the actual data and complementary files. Additionally, each dataverse can support the harvesting of cataloging information to then serve as a federated search that links out to other repositories hosting the actual data files. The University of North Carolina's Odum Institute has been involved in the implementation and development of the Dataverse Project and has agreed to host a SURA RDM Dataverse Pilot.

The goal of this pilot project is to work through a Dataverse Network implementation with 5-6 SURA RDM members. UNC has agreed to host this pilot project and Jonathan Crabtree (UNC) has agreed to work with the participants of this trial to provide training and assist with customizing the Dataverse environment to suit the needs of the trial participants. SURA will provide project coordination and meeting facilitation services for the project.

Through this Call for Participation we are seeking 5-6 schools to participate in this pilot project by identifying a single point of contact responsible for coordinating the efforts of their institution. This individual will work with SURA and UNC to:

- Identify a limited number of research domains and a sample set of research data from researchers at their institution to serve as test data to contribute to this pilot;
- Coordinate training and support for the Dataverse environment pilot at their institution;
- Assist with the customization and institutional branding of the Dataverse environment for their institution;
- Document their institution's experience with the Dataverse environment;
- Meet by phone and web conference on a regular basis to manage the progress of this pilot.

The expectation is that this will be a 6 month pilot project with a starting date in mid-Feb. 2013 with a rough timeline as follows:

- 1 month - training and initial configuration of institutional Dataverse implementations
- 3 months – loading of research data into institutional Dataverse implementations
- 2 months – evaluation of usefulness of Dataverse tools
- Report to community by late summer 2013

A key goal for the pilot project will be to select a diverse set of research data types and domains to enable a robust evaluation of the tools provided by the Dataverse Network. The evaluation results will then inform next steps in terms of direction, enhancements and gaps to continue to enhance our members' best practices and services.

If your institution would like to participate in this pilot project please send an email to Gary Crane (gcrane@sura.org) indicating your institution's interest, the research domains and approximate size of research datasets that your institution would like to include in the pilot, and the name and email address of your institution's RDM pilot project representative. The deadline indicating your institution's interest is January 30, 2013.