Research Data Management: Conversations from an Indigenous Perspective

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This proposed presentation will discuss various aspects of how research data management from an Indigenous perspective is different from that of other researchers and scholars, and how this is not being talked about in academic libraries. As a result, academic libraries, in their eager and well-intentioned efforts to provide research data management services may cause harm to Indigenous scholars, researchers and communities. This situation should be avoided at all costs and care should be taken when considering establishing research data management services by academic libraries.

The purpose of this presentation will be to highlight why and how Indigenous scholars take different positions from non-Indigenous scholars regarding making research data available in open access format. Much of the information that will be provided in this presentation will be based on interviews conducted with Indigenous scholars in 2018. Some of these highlights will include:

- conversations around Indigenous research protocols, such as the value of reciprocity when conducting research and relational research practices
- conversations concerning the OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession) Principles related to the governance and use of all of First Nations' information, including that shared during the research process, as developed by the First Nations Information Governance Centre
- conversations about the preservation of materials in Indigenous languages
- conversations regarding protocols for the sharing (or not) of archival documents with Indigenous content online
- conversations about Indigenous conceptions of copyright, particularly for stories belonging to communities.

This presentation will be timely in view of the revisions the Tri-Council funding agencies in Canada have proposed in 2018 regarding the mandatory provision of open access of research data for all Tri-Council funded research. One goal of this presentation is to generate a conversation about how universities and their libraries have responded to these proposed revisions, given that academic libraries have a responsibility to manage research data through institutional repositories and beyond. Have academic libraries consulted with their Indigenous faculty in the process? What will be the repercussions if these conversations have not transpired?

This presentation's provocative content will help engage a long-needed understanding of Indigenous peoples' needs for privacy surrounding their knowledges and respect for their values and protocols related to research involving Indigenous peoples. The end goal will be to provide insight as to how academic libraries can practice the motto of "do no more harm" when making decisions related to research data management and Indigenous peoples.