

# Washington University in St. Louis — Informed Consent for Prospective Research, 2024–2026

You are invited to participate in a research study investigating the institutional costs of making research data publicly available. You were selected as a possible participant because you received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2023 that is subject to data sharing requirements under the 2023 NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

This study, which is part of the Realities of Academic Data Sharing (RADS) Initiative, is being conducted by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in collaboration with investigators at Duke University, University at Buffalo, University of Minnesota, and Washington University in St. Louis.

The principal investigator (PI) contact at Washington University in St. Louis is Jennifer Moore, Head of Data Services.

## **Procedures:**

If you agree to be in this study, we will ask you to answer questions about the costs, activities, services, and infrastructure you use and support to make research data publicly accessible. This is an observational study that will take place over two years, from 2024 to 2026. Over this period, approximately eight meetings will be scheduled; you will be asked the same questions in each guided interview meeting. The exception to this is the first intake meeting, which will ask foundational questions in addition to the ongoing questions regarding your data management and sharing activities and expenses.

The first intake meeting/guided interview should take approximately 45–50 minutes. Subsequent interviews should take approximately 25–30 minutes. The interview questions will be sent to you prior to the first meeting.

Responses from the guided interview will be recorded directly in a survey format, hosted on the University of Minnesota's Qualtrics platform. We anticipate that your participation in this survey presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet.

## **Confidentiality:**

Survey data from the guided interviews that directly identifies you will be kept private and will only be shared with the research team. Research data collected in this study will be stripped of direct identifiers, such as names and email addresses, before being shared broadly with other researchers and the public. However, budget and cost information about you or your grant may still be identifiable based on publicly available information about the university and federal awards.

## **Voluntary Nature of the Study:**

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the Washington University in St. Louis, ARL, NIH, or any of the associated institutions. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

**Contacts and Questions:**

The researcher conducting this study at the Washington University in St. Louis is Jennifer Moore, Head of Data Services. If you have questions during any part of the study, you are encouraged to contact her at [j.moore@wustl.edu](mailto:j.moore@wustl.edu).

The principal investigator of this study is Cynthia Hudson Vitale at ARL. You can contact her via email at: [cvitale@arl.org](mailto:cvitale@arl.org).

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Washington University in St. Louis's Institutional Review Board (IRB), which operates closely with the Human Research Protection Office (HRPO). The contact information for the HRPO is [hrqa@wustl.edu](mailto:hrqa@wustl.edu) or 314-747-6800. Please contact the HRPO if:

- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- You have questions about your rights as a research participant.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.

**You may request a copy of this information to keep for your records.**

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*[Click to consent via an online form]*

Please confirm your consent to participate in the study. By confirming your consent, you are also confirming you are 18 years or older:

- I have read the above statements and DO give my informed consent to participate.
- I have read the above statements and DO NOT give my consent to participate.