

Arcus Research Data Management

RDM 101 + project template Arcus Labs Minimum requirements

template update: 2020 March 20
slides update: 2021 August 2



What is Research Data Management?

Research Data Management (RDM) 101

- Research data: Information collected during the course of research processes used for analysis
- RDM: Process of organizing, annotating, preserving, and sometimes sharing research data in all its forms
- Applies to entire lifecycle of research data
- Requires ongoing iteration rather than one-time application
- Best practices/recommendations rather than prescriptions
 - Universal
 - Domain-specific

Why do we care about RDM?

Regulatory requirements

- Many funding agencies (CDC, EPA, DoD & more) require data sharing & pre-written data management plans
- NIH requires a data sharing plan for all grants over 500k
- NIH will require data sharing & management plan for **all** grants starting Jan 2023
- Many sub groups such as data consortiums or centers of interest require data sharing and management
- Many publishers require data sharing along with publication

Benefits to the researcher

Well managed data:

- Is easier to quality check & validate during collection & analysis
- Reduces knowledge drain during staff turnover
- Reduces bottlenecks by shifting implicit knowledge to explicit knowledge
- Maximizes ease of reuse for future analysis & publications
- Reduces administrative burden for combining with additional datasets for expanded analysis
- Reduces administrative burden for sharing data & collaborating with new researchers
- Simplifies responding to questions or challenges arising from publication & review

Benefits to the researcher

Research Data Management is about getting the most out of the hard work researchers are doing and the valuable data being collected

Contextualizing research data

Understanding research as

- a process
- an environment
- a community

Documenting data as well as

- the objective of the research effort
- the methods of data collection
- the methods of data transformation
- the methods of data analysis

Contextualizing research data

Research data

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Access tools

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Contextual files

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Reproducibility

Arcus Project Template

- File directory structure
- Organized but flexible
- Project-based instead of person-based
- Research data + access tools + contextual files + metadata
- Use for new, in-progress, on-going, and completed work
- Collaborative stewardship of data in Labs by Arcus and study teams

Arcus Project Template

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/home_dir/project_name/  
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├── configs  
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├── data  
│   ├── README.md  
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Arcus Project Template

Access tools

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Contextual files

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Arcus Project Template

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Access tools

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Arcus Project Template

Research data

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Access tools

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Contextual files

**Minimum required components
managed by Arcus & study team**

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Arcus Project Template

Research data

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Access tools

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Contextual files

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Arcus Project Template

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Contextual files

Minimum required components
managed by Arcus

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Arcus Project Template

Required components:

- parent folders
 - data/
 - manifests/ *
 - src/
- README
 - for overall project
 - all folders used

* maintained by Arcus

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Arcus Project Template

Required practices:

- version control
- standardized naming conventions*
 - file names
 - folder names
 - project name
- retention
 - regular review of contents and files for long-term use/preservation and for deletion

*RDM resources available

Arcus Project Template

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Contextual files

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Arcus Project Template

README *

- “homepage” document
- Context/guidance around files and processes in your research
- Document how teams manage, organize, use files
- Ease transitions between team members and over time

*RDM resource available


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Arcus Project Template

README contents

- people
- folder overview
- dates
- related files
- process information
- change log/version control
- naming conventions

Arcus Project Template

Research data

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Arcus Project Template

data/

- Maintains descriptions of authoritative source data and their associated files and metadata in both raw and processed formats
- Required component
- Jointly managed by Arcus/study team

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Arcus Project Template

data/raw/

- Arcus-delivered data goes here
- Study team generated data brought into Arcus goes here
- Authoritative source data that should never be deleted
- Organize in subdirectories if necessary

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Arcus Project Template

data/interim

- Managed by study team
- Unregulated space for intermediate and temporary files
- Not necessary to save long-term
- Recommend establishing retention schedules for regular review/clean-up

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│   ├── README.md
│   ├── figures
│   ├── log.md
│   ├── methods.md
│   └── tables
├── requirements
│   ├── README.md
│   └── project_requirements.txt
├── src
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── notebooks
│   │   └── README.md
│   ├── rules
│   ├── scripts
│   └── tests
```

Arcus Project Template

data/endpoints/

- Managed by study team
- Final results from research analysis
- Files generated to support papers or grants
- Organize in subdirectories if necessary

```
/home_dir/project_name/
├── README.md
├── configs
│   └── README.md
├── data
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── endpoints
│   ├── interim
│   ├── raw
│   └── ref-data
├── logs
├── manifests
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── file_derivation.csv
│   ├── file_manifest.csv
│   ├── participant-crosswalk.txt
│   ├── participant_family_role.csv
│   └── participant_manifest.csv
├── models
│   └── README.md
├── references
│   ├── README.md
│   └── protocols
├── reports
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── figures
│   ├── log.md
│   ├── methods.md
│   └── tables
├── requirements
│   ├── README.md
│   └── project_requirements.txt
├── src
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── notebooks
│   │   └── README.md
│   ├── rules
│   ├── scripts
│   └── tests
```

Arcus Project Template

data/ref-data/

- External or public datasets not supplied by Research IS or your lab, such as census data

RIS has recommended structure:

https://github.research.chop.edu/RIS/reference_data


```
/home_dir/project_name/
├── README.md
├── configs
│   └── README.md
├── data
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── endpoints
│   ├── interim
│   ├── raw
│   └── ref-data
├── logs
├── manifests
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── file_derivation.csv
│   ├── file_manifest.csv
│   ├── participant-crosswalk.txt
│   ├── participant_family_role.csv
│   └── participant_manifest.csv
├── models
│   └── README.md
├── references
│   ├── README.md
│   └── protocols
├── reports
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── figures
│   ├── log.md
│   ├── methods.md
│   └── tables
├── requirements
│   ├── README.md
│   └── project_requirements.txt
├── src
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── notebooks
│   │   └── README.md
│   ├── rules
│   ├── scripts
│   └── tests
```

Arcus Project Template

manifests/

- Managed by Arcus
- Inventory of all raw & endpoint data
- Inventory of all participants and their related cohorts/samples/family roles, as applicable
- Associates IDs with all data files
- Documents relationships between files in pipelines/workflows

Arcus Project Template

Access tools

```
/home_dir/project_name/  
├── README.md  
├── configs  
│   └── README.md  
├── data  
│   ├── README.md  
│   ├── endpoints  
│   ├── interim  
│   ├── raw  
│   └── ref-data  
├── logs  
├── manifests  
│   ├── README.md  
│   ├── file_derivation.csv  
│   ├── file_manifest.csv  
│   ├── participant-crosswalk.txt  
│   ├── participant_family_role.csv  
│   └── participant_manifest.csv  
├── models  
│   └── README.md  
├── references  
│   ├── README.md  
│   └── protocols  
├── reports  
│   ├── README.md  
│   ├── figures  
│   ├── log.md  
│   ├── methods.md  
│   └── tables  
├── requirements  
│   ├── README.md  
│   └── project_requirements.txt  
└── src  
    ├── README.md  
    ├── notebooks  
    │   └── README.md  
    ├── rules  
    ├── scripts  
    └── tests
```

Arcus Project Template

src/

- Managed by study team
- Access tools required of the research data itself
- Version control is important!
- Subdirectory folders can be customized and added as needed

```
/home_dir/project_name/
├── README.md
├── configs
│   └── README.md
├── data
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── endpoints
│   ├── interim
│   ├── raw
│   └── ref-data
├── logs
├── manifests
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── file_derivation.csv
│   ├── file_manifest.csv
│   ├── participant-crosswalk.txt
│   ├── participant_family_role.csv
│   └── participant_manifest.csv
├── models
│   └── README.md
├── references
│   ├── README.md
│   └── protocols
├── reports
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── figures
│   ├── log.md
│   ├── methods.md
│   └── tables
├── requirements
│   ├── README.md
│   └── project_requirements.txt
└── src
    ├── README.md
    ├── notebooks
    │   └── README.md
    ├── rules
    ├── scripts
    └── tests
```

Arcus Project Template

src/ subfolders

- Common/useful options
 - notebooks/
 - Jupyter, Beaker, Zeppelin, etc.
 - scripts/
 - Custom software, code, scripts

```
/home_dir/project_name/
├── README.md
├── configs
│   └── README.md
├── data
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── endpoints
│   ├── interim
│   ├── raw
│   └── ref-data
├── logs
├── manifests
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── file_derivation.csv
│   ├── file_manifest.csv
│   ├── participant-crosswalk.txt
│   ├── participant_family_role.csv
│   └── participant_manifest.csv
├── models
│   └── README.md
├── references
│   ├── README.md
│   └── protocols
├── reports
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── figures
│   ├── log.md
│   ├── methods.md
│   └── tables
├── requirements
│   ├── README.md
│   └── project_requirements.txt
└── src
    ├── README.md
    ├── notebooks
    │   └── README.md
    ├── rules
    ├── scripts
    └── tests
```

Arcus Project Template

src/ subfolders

- Other examples of options
 - rules/
 - for computational workflows
 - test/
 - unit testing for code
 - customizable to team needs

```
/home_dir/project_name/
├── README.md
├── configs
│   └── README.md
├── data
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── endpoints
│   ├── interim
│   ├── raw
│   └── ref-data
├── logs
├── manifests
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── file_derivation.csv
│   ├── file_manifest.csv
│   ├── participant-crosswalk.txt
│   ├── participant_family_role.csv
│   └── participant_manifest.csv
├── models
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├── references
│   ├── README.md
│   └── protocols
├── reports
│   ├── README.md
│   ├── figures
│   ├── log.md
│   ├── methods.md
│   └── tables
├── requirements
│   ├── README.md
│   └── project_requirements.txt
└── src
    ├── README.md
    ├── notebooks
    │   └── README.md
    ├── rules
    ├── scripts
    └── tests
```

```
/home_dir/project_name
```

```
|— README.md *
```

```
|— configs
```

```
|— data*
```

```
|— logs
```

```
|— manifests
```

```
|— models
```

```
|— references
```

```
|— reports
```

```
|— requirements
```

```
|— src*
```

Arcus Project Template

* required components

```
/home_dir/project_name
```

```
|— README.md *
```

```
|— configs
```

```
|— data*
```

```
|— logs
```

```
|— manifests
```

```
|— models
```

```
|— references
```

```
|— reports
```

```
|— requirements
```

```
|— src*
```

Arcus Project Template

* required components

- Additional folders can be added if useful
 - Research administration file
- Study teams can implement template outside of Arcus Lab environment to harmonize research management

Arcus Research Data Management

Free consultations and additional resources:

- README structure
- Narrative descriptions of research
- Filenaming
- Data dictionaries
- Ontologies
- Data collection/processing
- Extract, transform, load (ETL)
- REDCap survey methodology
- NIH's data management plan requirements

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