

Dataverse North Working Group

Research data are increasingly the starting point for new research. In the digital environment, it is possible for researchers to re-purpose data for use in innovative ways and in combinations not envisioned by those who created them. However, the management and interoperability of research data is complex and requires collaboration across institutions, regions, and with a variety of stakeholders. The Portage network was established by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries in 2015 to facilitate and provide leadership in the development of research data management (RDM) infrastructure and services by coordinating their delivery through multiple institutions and organizations across the country. The power of this federated model is in enabling the sharing of data resources, expertise, and technology locally as well as nationally.

Under the auspices of Portage, the Dataverse North Working Group will primarily work to develop a community of practice for libraries using or interested in using the Dataverse repository platform for research data in Canada. The Working Group will also investigate gaps and opportunities that could be addressed by nationally coordinated strategies and services for Dataverse, including training, infrastructure development, and support for researchers and libraries, including hosting services provided by regional Dataverse providers.

Goals:

To develop a community of practice whereby Dataverse providers and libraries can come together to coordinate and discuss local and national infrastructure development and needs, training, support services, outreach strategies, and promotions.

Members of the Dataverse North Working Group may represent existing areas and groups already within the Portage Network, providing key expertise in areas such as data preservation, data discovery, curation, metadata, and training.

Specific responsibilities:

- Identify areas for technical development of the Dataverse system and key integrations in support of Portage's overall RDM Framework;
- Work to establish clear use cases and workflows for RDM, including distributed file storage and preservation in the Dataverse system;
- Provide project and testing support for tool integrations, including Dataverse - Archivematica integration, Open Journals System, and Open Science Framework integration;
- Coordinate with the Portage Training Expert Group to develop modular and reusable training to support use of Dataverse;
- Advocate and promote Dataverse to key stakeholder audiences, including libraries, grant agencies, publishers, and researchers, in coordination with local services;
- Coordinate and develop a framework for Dataverse hosting and support services for designated libraries or other special interests that do not currently have a place to deposit research data.
- Explore a common business model to level the access to universities across Canada.

Lead: TBD

Timeline to begin: April 2017