

# COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH DATA STRATEGY TASK FORCE

## UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

### PROGRESS BRIEFING #1

#### Foundations and Active Data Storage



## TASK FORCE APPROACH

To meet its charge (<https://go.unl.edu/am3w>), the Task Force has adopted the following guiding frameworks and quantitative tools to assess UNL's current and desired future state across critical elements of a comprehensive research data strategy:

**Institutional Research Data Management Strategy Development Template (v. 3.0)**  
Digital Research Alliance of Canada  
<https://go.unl.edu/yxwv>

**Research Computing and Data (RCD) Capabilities Model**  
Developed in a collaboration among Internet2, Campus Research Computing Consortium (CaRCC), and EDUCAUSE with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF)  
<https://go.unl.edu/uk0n>

**RDM Maturity Assessment Model in Canada (MAMIC) (v. 1.0)**  
Digital Research Alliance of Canada  
<https://go.unl.edu/yxwv>

In addition, the Task Force comprises faculty across the academic disciplines and members of key campus units responsible for research data services. Qualitative data that complement the quantitative data are derived from membership input.

## ACTIVE DATA STORAGE FINDINGS

The Task Force's first deep dive focused on active research data storage.

Based on quantitative ratings, UNL technically makes active research data storage solutions available to all UNL researchers. However, these offerings are not mature, meaning they are not well known or understood, and supporting policies and procedures are underdeveloped. Given the necessity of robust data storage offerings to a functional research data strategy, the Task Force emphasized the importance of UNL reaching a fully mature future state within three to five years.

Qualitative findings were consistent and complementary. The Task Force identified human and social infrastructure as critical to improving communication with the research community about data storage solutions. The membership lifted up research-limiting challenges employing data storage solutions that allow for sharing of data across collaborating institutions.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The combination of faculty and staff perspectives represented on the current Task Force must be maintained in the form of a commissioned standing committee when UNL moves beyond the Task Force in its continued attention to the fast-paced, changing nature of research data strategies.

Personnel delivering active research data storage solutions must be well-networked with one another, collaborative, and knowledgeable about the research process. Strategic leadership should be carefully balanced with action. Researchers should have sufficient liaison support in navigating storage solutions.

Communication about active research data storage solutions and relevant policies, procedures, and guidance must be robust, clear, well-timed, and intelligible across academic disciplines and to non-IT specialist audiences.

Physical research data storage infrastructure required to meet campus research needs must be maintained and adapted to meet growing and changing needs over time. Research teams should be made well aware of the costs of different storage options and how to budget for them, particularly beyond the life of a funded research project.

