

 **In celebration of  
anchors: The Data Rescue  
Project's fast + Slow  
development** 



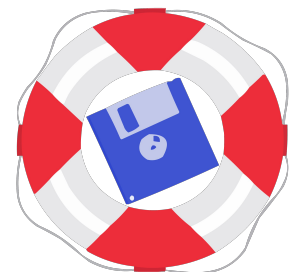
**Data Rescue  
Project**

***Presented by Mikala Narlock with  
support from the DRP***



# Agenda

- 🚢 What is happening (and what even IS a federal data resource)
- 🚢 The development of the Data Rescue Project
- 🚢 Current DRP efforts
- 🚢 What is Slow - and how the DRP has embraced it
- 🚢 Lessons learned
- 🚢 Next steps



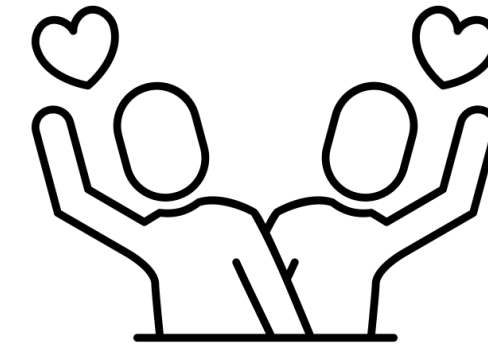
**Data Rescue  
Project**

[www.datarescueproject.org/](http://www.datarescueproject.org/)

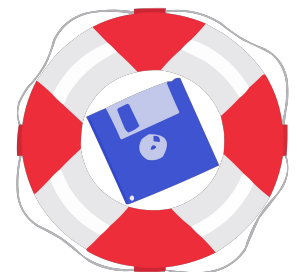


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# The Data Rescue Project Community

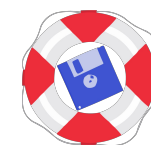


**literally  
hundreds of  
volunteers**



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⚓ **2025: The year of  
chaos** ⚓



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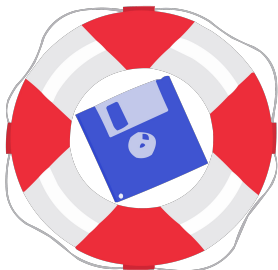
# What's happening?

US gov't data resources and websites are being

- removed
- made inaccessible
- altered

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025\\_United\\_States\\_government\\_online\\_resource\\_removals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_United_States_government_online_resource_removals)

Affected datasets			
Dataset	Description	Organization	
<a href="#">Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System</a>	widely used national health survey	<a href="#">Centers for Disease Control</a>	[7]
<a href="#">Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System</a>	high school student <a href="#">social determinants of health</a>	CDC	[7]
CDC AtlasPlus	HIV, viral hepatitis, STI, and TB, <a href="#">social determinants of health</a>	CDC	[7]
<a href="#">PEPFAR Dashboard</a>	PEPFAR programs	<a href="#">Department of State, Global AIDS Coordinator</a>	[7]
<a href="#">Demographic and Health Surveys</a>	population, health, HIV, and nutrition data from many countries	<a href="#">USAID, ICF International</a>	[7]
<a href="#">foreignassistance.gov</a>	foreign aid data by country, budget, expenditure, program	<a href="#">Department of State, Agency for International Development</a>	[7]
Household Pulse Survey	long COVID	CDC	[1]
<a href="#">Social Vulnerability Index</a>	<a href="#">Relative deprivation</a>	CDC	[2]
Environmental Justice Index	Identifies areas "most at risk for the health impacts of environmental burden." <sup>[30]</sup>	CDC	[1]
Employment Situation	<a href="#">Unemployment in the United States</a>	<a href="#">Bureau of Labor Statistics</a>	[1]
Federal criminal charge records	<a href="#">January 6 United States Capitol attack</a>	<a href="#">United States Department of Justice</a>	[1]



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**“We found that 114 (49%) of the 232 included datasets were substantially altered. ... Only 15 (13%) of the 114 altered datasets logged or otherwise indicated that the change had occurred.”**

-Freilich and Kesselheim 2025: “Data manipulation within the US Federal Government”



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# What are public federal data resources?

## The Home of the U.S. Government's Open Data

Here you will find data, tools, and resources to conduct research, develop web and mobile applications, design data visualizations, and more.

**308,721** DATASETS AVAILABLE

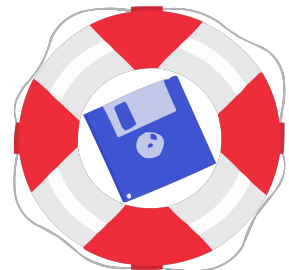
## National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

Information with Accurate, Timely, and Nonpartisan

## Welcome to the National Snow and Ice Data Center

EXPLORE DATA

OUR RESEARCH



Data  
Project

<https://datarescueproject.org/profile/datarescueproject.org>



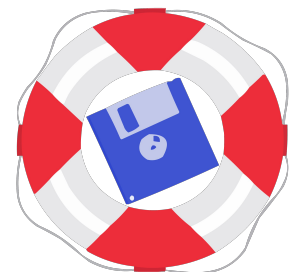
# About the Data Rescue Project



**Data Rescue  
Project**

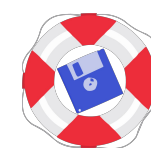


# A brief history of the



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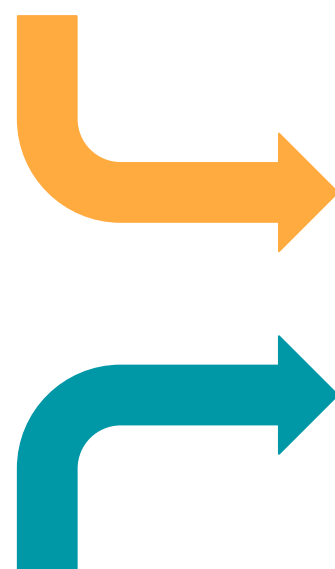


International Association for Social Science  
Information Service & Technology



**RDAP**  
ASSOCIATION

**DATA  
CURATION  
NETWORK**



# Data Rescue Project

- Coordinate
- Communicate
- Curate
- Conserve



PRESERVATION OF ELECTRONIC  
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

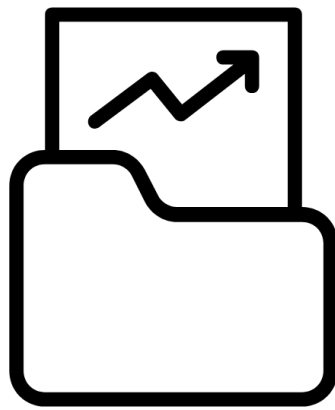


Environmental Data  
& Governance Initiative

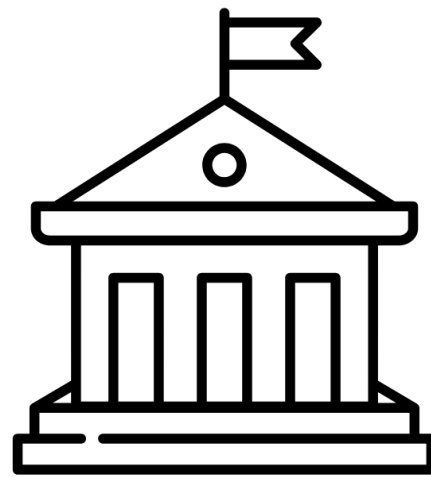




# The DRP at a Glance



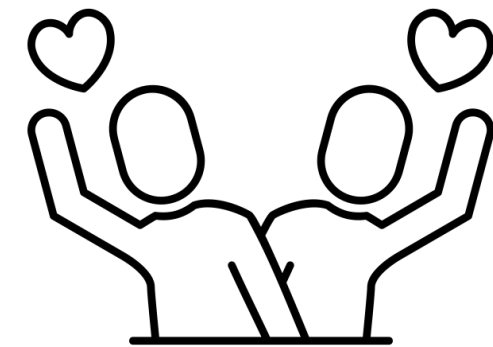
**1000+  
rescued  
datasets**



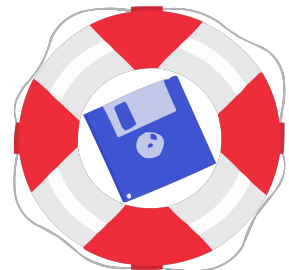
**80+ at-risk  
gov't offices  
covered**



**Hundreds of  
terabytes of  
mirrored data**



**500+  
volunteers**



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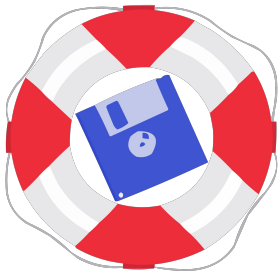


[bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org](https://bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org)



# Data Inventory Spreadsheet and Workflow

A	B	C
Process for data rescue		
	1a. Check the <a href="#">data rescue tracker</a> to see if the data have already been rescued.	
	1b. Decide which agency you are most interested in collecting data for. There are different tabs at the bottom of the document. If you would like to rescue data and do not see a tab for the agency or office, feel free to add a new tab.	
	2. Review the <a href="#">MIT Checklist for data rescue in the US</a>	
	3. Add your information to the relevant row in the Agencies tab (for example: IMLS or MBDA). Many of the tabs already have datasets listed so you may be able to skip this step	
	4. Capture ALL necessary information and documentation in addition to data files, if they are data related (e.g., codebooks, data dictionaries, metadata, data stories). If the site does not contain data, make a note of it (these pages can still be nominated to EOT, but documents not relevant to data should not be loaded into Data Lumos)	
	5. Organize the documents and data in a logical fashion (i.e., by year)	
	6. Flag any datasets that are behind explorer tools or otherwise difficult to download. These can be indicated in the Data Downloadable column.	
	7. Nominate the links of dataset to the <a href="#">U.S. Government Web &amp; Data Archive 2025</a> (this replaces the EOT web archive as of 2025-04-01)	
	8. Zip the files.	
	9. Submit the data files to <a href="#">Data Lumos</a> .	
Fields in each tab of the sheet (dividd by agency)		
	Admin Notes	perceived threat or known issues
	Data Added (Y/N/IP)	Has a link to the data been added to the spreadsheet
	Title of Site	The human-readable name of the website

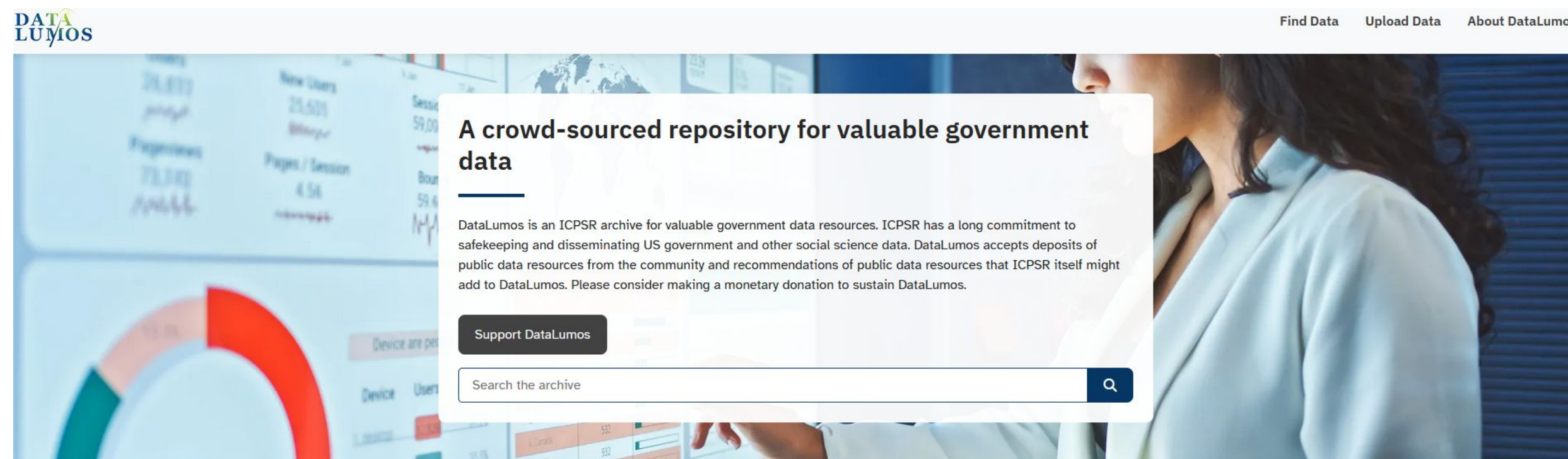




# From Friday, February 7 - October 9, 2025

## 938 datasets uploaded to [ICPSR's DataLumos](#) with metadata

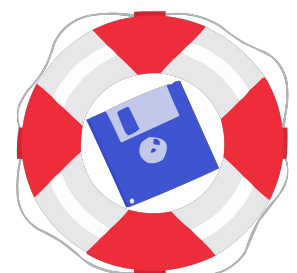
## Through Oct 9, 9,000+ downloads from Data Lumos



 Be the First – [Verify](#) that the data have not already been preserved to ICPSR

 Describe Data – Learn how to [make the data more findable and useful](#)

 Add Data Now – [Start uploading](#) to DataLumos



# Data Rescue Project

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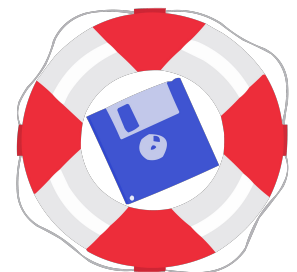
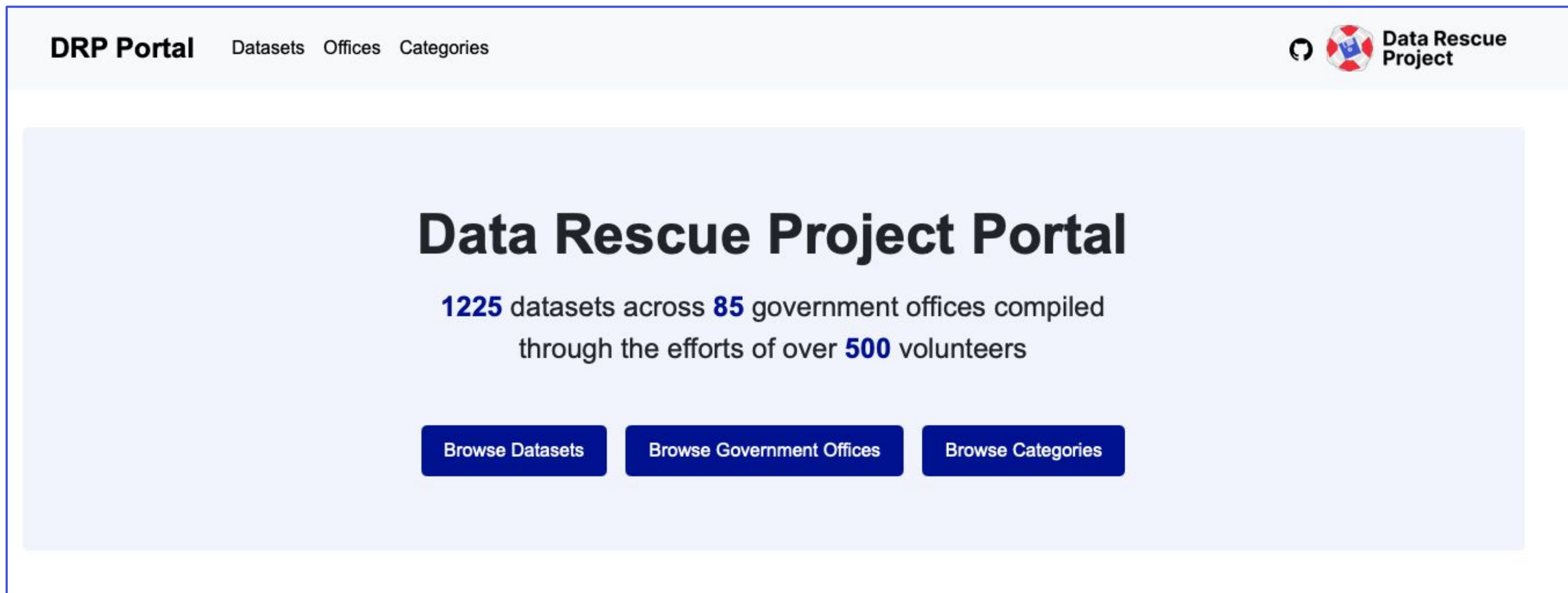


[bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org](https://bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org)



# Data Rescue Project Portal

[portal.datarescueproject.org](https://portal.datarescueproject.org)



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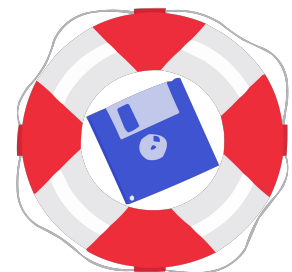
[bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org](https://bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org)



# Data Rescue Event Toolkit

- Use our free templates to promote, organize, and run a data rescue event.
- Share your event with us—and let us know how it goes!

[osf.io/zbdxt/](https://osf.io/zbdxt/)



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[bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org](https://bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org)

This project contains materials for those interested in hosting data rescue events.

## List of Contents

1. Lesson Plan - overview of event
2. Sample Communication - Templates for emails and social media posts
3. Attendee worksheet - printable worksheet for attendees
4. Slide deck - template slide deck for organizers

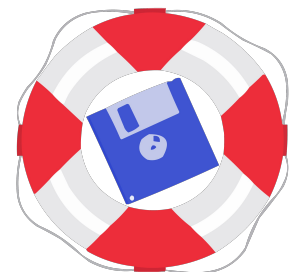
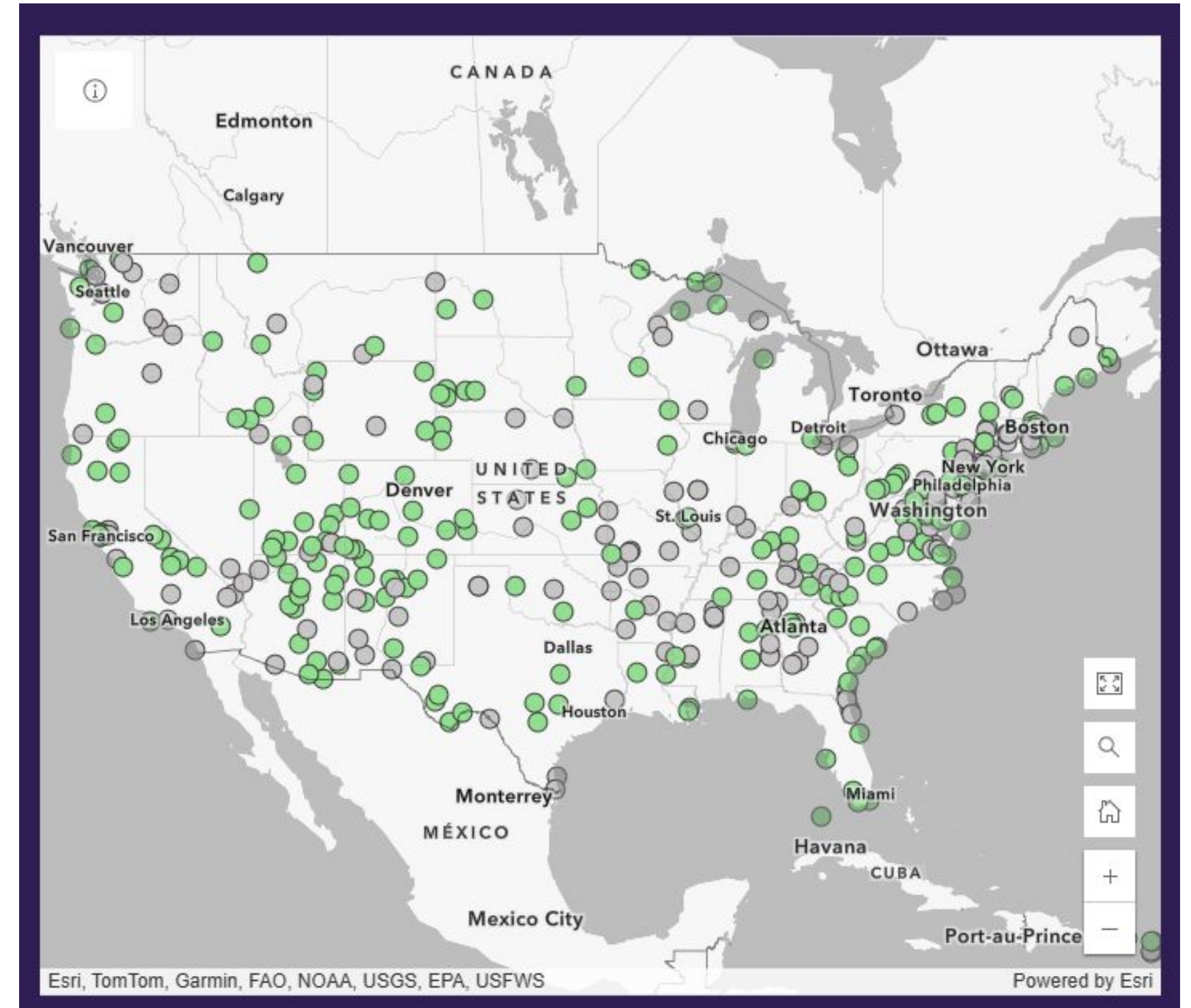
[Static documents \(Files\)](#) | [Dynamic documents \(gDrive\)](#)

## Additional Resources

- [Risk Assessment for Scientific Data](#)
- [Hackathon checklist](#)
- [Getting started with the Data Rescue Project](#)
- [Stronger together: the case for cross-sector collaboration in identifying and preserving at-risk data](#)
- [UW-CALMA Data Rescue Gitbook](#)
- [Step by step guide for data preservation from MIT](#)
- [Curating for data rescue from the Data Curation Network](#)

# Save Our Signs

- Crowdsourced effort to archive National Parks Interpretive signs
- Partnership with University of Minnesota and Safeguarding Research and Culture
- More than 10,000 photos submitted from around the country



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Data + Screening Tools

Data & Tools

Get Involved

About

News

Donate

Public Environmental Data Partners

The Public Environmental Data Partners are **committed to preserving and providing public access to federal environmental data**. We are a volunteer coalition of several environmental, justice, and policy organizations, researchers across several universities, archivists, and students who rely on federal datasets and tools to support critical research, advocacy, policy, and litigation work. To gather insights on what data to preserve, we reached out to our networks, which consist largely of environmental justice groups and networks, state and local government climate offices, and academic researchers. We compiled a large list of tools, and prioritized them based on their relative impact, our confidence that we could archive them, and the ease of access and take to obtain and archive them.

Fill out the form [here](#) to nominate data for us to preserve.

Updates

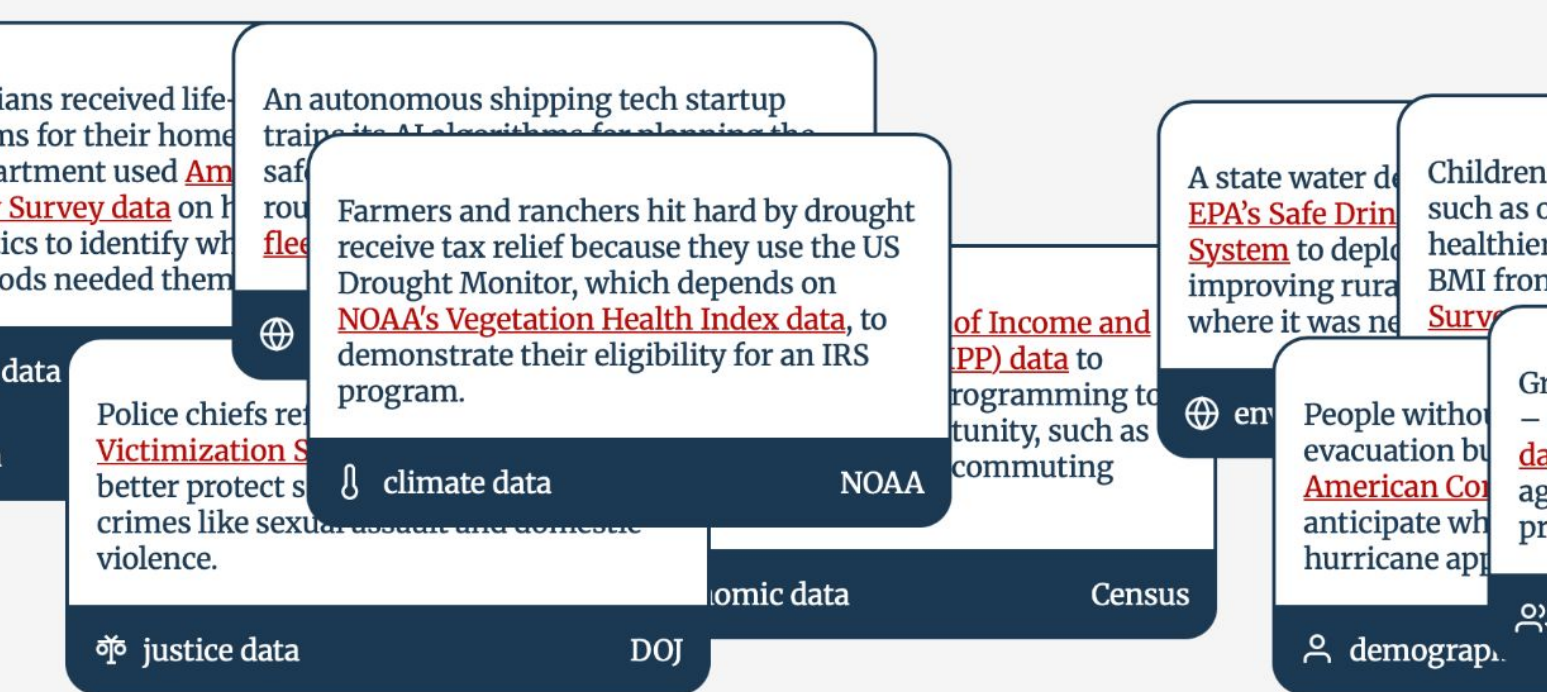
- [March 27, 2025] PEDP shared list of archived resources [here](#).
- [March 19, 2025] PEDP created a [new map](#) that displays environmental justice grants the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made through the Inflation Reduction Act since 2024.

America's Essential Data

About Us

Get Involved

Federal datasets are essential infrastructure for American lives and livelihoods



Tracking Removed and Modified Government Information & Resources

Sign Up

Log In

Topics

About

FAQ

Welcome to Safeguarding Research & Culture (SRC) — Distributing Cultural Memory!

Search

Categories

tags

Latest

Hot

FEDERAL DATA FORUM

FDF Home

Discussion

Blogs

Events

Member Directory

Welcome to the Federal Data Forum Online Community

This online community is a place for members of the Federal Data Forum to share their research, data, and materials, and announcements related to U.S. federal data resources

Join Now or Login



# ⚓ Reflections ⚓

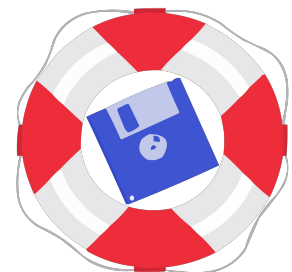


**Data Rescue  
Project**



# Enter Slow

- Rejection of rapid culture: Fast food, fast fashion, etc.
  - Celebrating seasonality
    - Balancing rest and growth
  - Expensive, Privileged, Elitist
- Slow Food (Petrini 2003)
  - In Praise of Slowness (Honore 2004)
  - Navigating Slow and Fast (Brooks-Kieffer 2018)
  - Wintering (May 2020)



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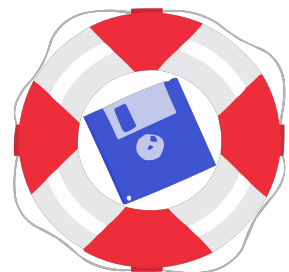
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## Enter Slow

- Rejection of food, fast food
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- Expensive,



2003)  
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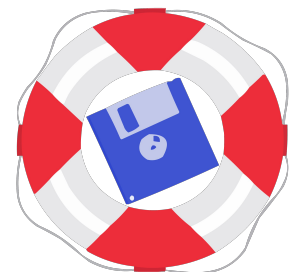


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# A Slow framework

1. Prioritize Quality and Care over Quantity
2. Center Both User and Worker Experience
3. Build Sustainable and Responsible Practices
4. Enhance Accessibility Through Documentation



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Berger, T. and Narlock, M. (forthcoming).

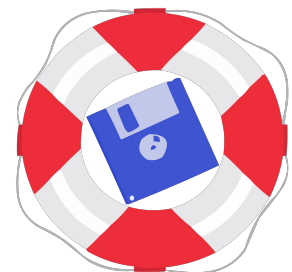
# Prioritize Quality and Care over Quantity

## Description

“...emphasizing careful attention to detail and quality of output. This includes better scanning quality, more thorough metadata, and attention to the unique characteristics of each digitized item.”

## DRP Implementation

- Standard data capture workflow that emphasizes curation
- Balancing batch capture (e.g., web scraping) with manual capture



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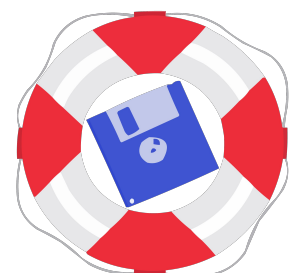
# Center Both User and Worker Experience

## Description

“...acknowledges that digitization staff often have unique insights into materials due to their intimate interaction with items at the page level, and it creates systems to capture and share that knowledge.”

## DRP Implementation

- Encouraging volunteers to take data that interests them
  - Allowing volunteers pseudonyms
  - Encouraging volunteers to lead data rescue efforts
- Build channels for data capture discussions
- Celebrate publicly data successes



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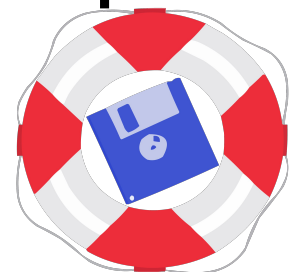


[bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org](https://bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org)

# Build Sustainable and Responsible Practices

## Description

“...emphasizes sustainable workflows that can be maintained long-term. This includes careful consideration of equipment usage, staff training, and establishing consistent documentation practices...”



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## DRP Implementation

- Using existing sources (e.g., DataLumos) + not duplicating effort
- Transparent practices in all of our work
- Used previous rapid-response collection models
- Leverage open source when possible



[bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org](https://bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org)



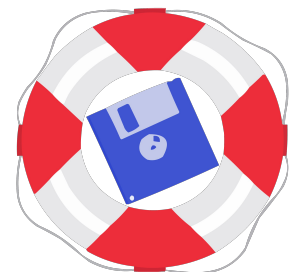
# Enhance Accessibility Through Documentation

## Description

“...emphasizes the importance of documenting... characteristics that might affect user experience or understanding.”

## DRP Implementation

- Capturing provenance with datasets
  - In documentation + data inventory
- Highlighting datasets through Data Rescue Portal



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# ⚓ Lessons Learned ⚓

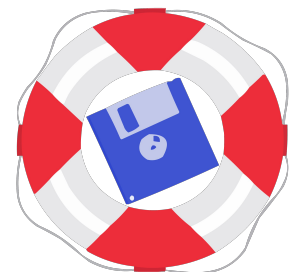


**Data Rescue  
Project**



# Know your scope – and your lane

- Kept closely scoped to social sciences data; focused on uplifting and collaborating with other groups when more appropriate.
  - Could intentionally support our volunteers
  - Could develop resources that make everyone's lives easier
- Drawback: we know there are datasets that we have lost. (e.g., restricted access data; large and complex datasets)



**Data Rescue  
Project**

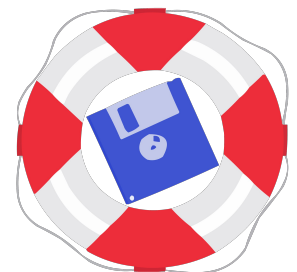
[www.datarescueproject.org/](http://www.datarescueproject.org/)



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# Go with the energy – but don't get swept up by it.

- Letting volunteer interest guide rescues
- Developed resources to maximize energy without over-committing ourselves.



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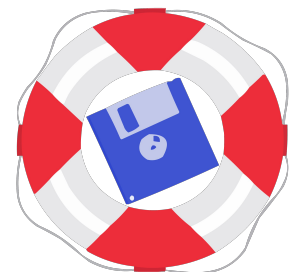


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# Celebrate the cycles of engagement

- We can't all be involved all the time.
- This is EXHAUSTING work.
- Step back, encourage others to do the same. (with the caveat: we are really bad at this)
- And, don't sweat too much when there is low engagement for stretches of time.



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# Slow is refusal– and both depend on collaboration

- Slow is difficult alone.
- Refusal is difficult alone.
- Community is how we get through.



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## ⚓ Next Steps ⚓

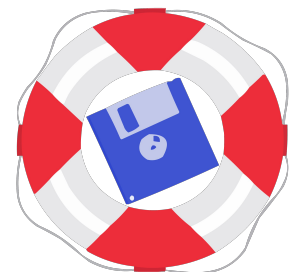


**Data Rescue  
Project**



# Make it easier for the next rapid-response collection

- Using our Slow to decide what's next
- Documenting everything + sharing as openly as possible
- Creating a runbook - What to expect when you weren't expecting to have to save a lot of digital information really quickly



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Project**

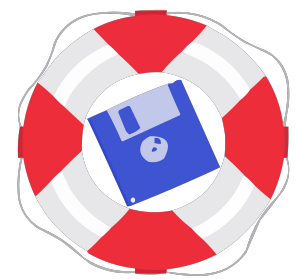
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# How you can support us.



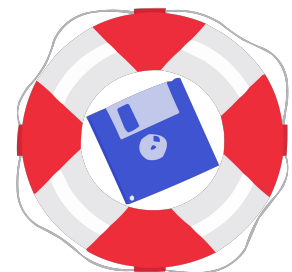
**Data Rescue  
Project**

- Share our resources and projects with your professional and personal circles.
- Rescue data identified in our Data Inventory.
- Add rescued data to our Tracker.
- If you are able, contribute financially



# Thank you

- The Data Rescue Project Steering Committee (h/t Halle Burns)
- Wanda Marsolek and Joanna Thielen
- Every Data Rescue Project volunteer



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📍mnarlock@iu.edu📍



**Data Rescue  
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# References

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