



Data (re)use within research projects and beyond: The roles of researchers and data stewards

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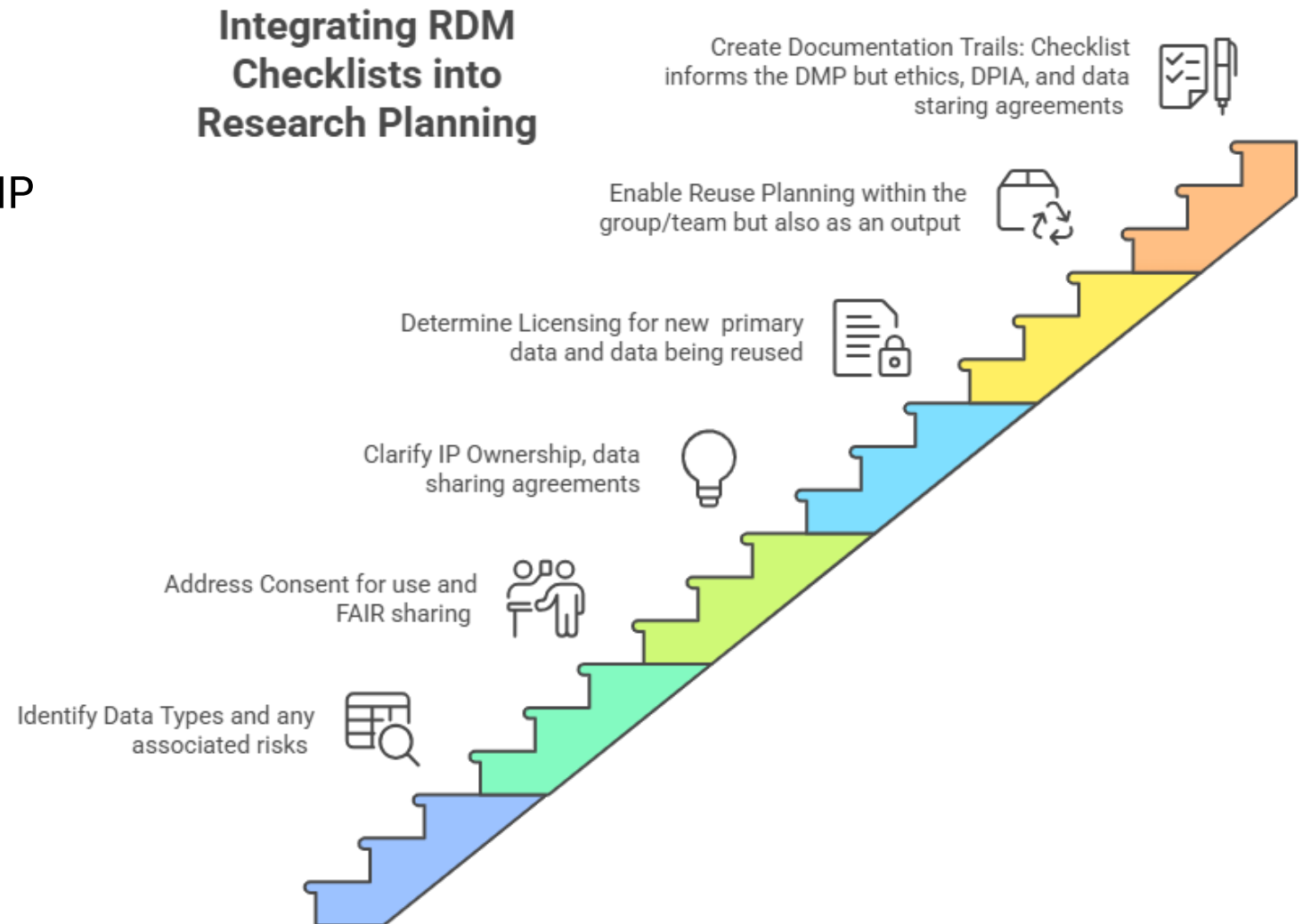


Compliance isn't optional

- Researcher must follow legal and ethical standards when handling data.
- Plan for reuse early in the project lifecycle.
- Researchers hold primary responsibility.
- Checklists support but don't replace researcher accountability.
- Data stewards facilitate and translate policy into practice.

Why checklists?

- Preventative
- Less intimidating than a formal DMP as a first step
- Checklist are operational tools
- Allows data stewards and researchers to think through essential compliance tasks and areas without being mired in the narrative.



Getting Started with RDM

Translating Policy into Action

The pathway begins with:

- Reading the UCC Research Data Management Policy
- Using a Kick-Off Checklist
- Writing and evaluating a Data Management Plan (DMP)

5. Collect

6. Follow legal and ethical requirements

[Research Ethics](#)

[Information Compliance/GDPR](#)

[FAIR and GDPR guide](#)

[Consent for FAIR data sharing](#)

[CARE](#)

[UCC Code of Research Conduct](#)

Get Started with RDM in UCC

What is Research Data Management (RDM)? RDM is the process of organizing, storing, preserving, and sharing data collected and used during research. Good RDM improves research efficiency, integrity, and impact. Use the QR Code to access online.

1. Read the Policy – [UCC Research Data Management Policy](#)
2. Use the [Research Data Management Kick-Off Checklist](#)
3. Training



[Getting Started with RDM in UCC](#)

RDM Tools: The RDM Kick-off Checklist

A practical project-start tool that helps you:

- Translate RDM policy into actionable first steps
- Clarify roles and responsibilities (including Data Stewards)
- Identify compliance requirements (GDPR, ethics, IP, funder clauses)
- Plan storage, FAIR sharing, and long-term preservation
- Allocate resources and budget for RDM
- Move from DMP writing to DMP implementation

[Research Data Management Kick-off Checklist](#)

As a Data Steward, this checklist helps you to:

- Lead structured RDM conversations at project kickoff
- Identify risks early (legal, ethical, security, IP)
- Ensure FAIR and funder compliance from the outset
- Support team-wide adoption of good data practices
- Embed review and monitoring mechanisms

Research Data Management Kickoff Checklist

This checklist supports the start/ kickoff process for research projects by guiding teams through key steps in Research Data Management (RDM). It includes planning, compliance, resource allocation and implementation of the data management plan. Use the list to track progress and refer to the linked resources for templates and other tools. The [Get Started with RDM in UCC](#) guide is a useful companion to this checklist.

1. Who are you and what is your research project?

Project Name	
Lead	
Project members and roles (internal)	
Collaborators/Project Partners (external)	
School/Dept/Unit	
Futures	
Funder	
Start Date	
Data Steward(s) and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	
Data Management Plan (DMP) due	
Research Data Management (RDM) / FAIR budget line	

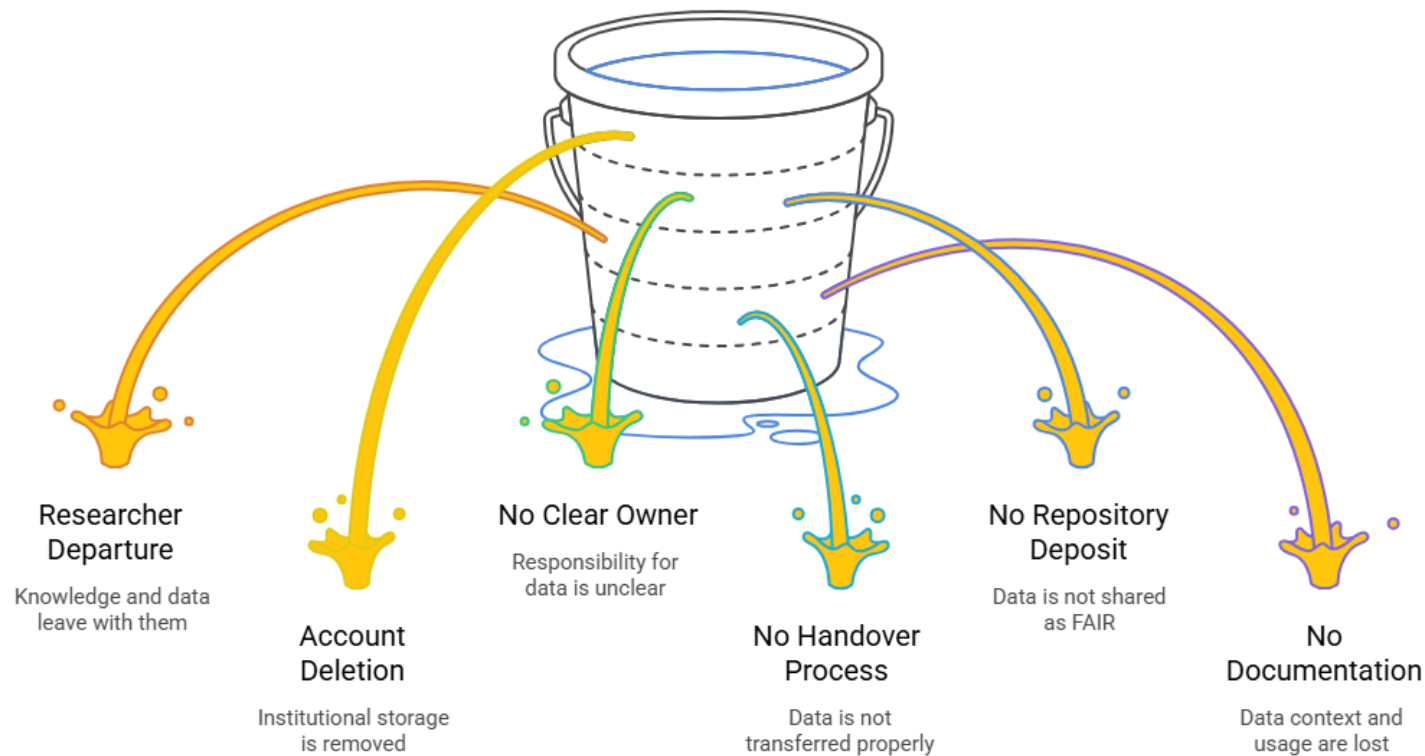


Data Loss at Project End

This checklist ensures an RDM handover or closure process

- Ensures data transfer before accounts are deleted
- Clarifies data ownership and responsibility
- Ensures documentation and metadata are complete
- Confirms compliance with DMP and retention policies
- Identifies what will be shared as FAIR and Open vs retained internally

Data is often vulnerable at transition points



Made with  Napkin

Take Home Messages

- Data reuse is central to research practice.
- Legal and ethical compliance are an enabler rather than a barrier to reuse.

RDM checklists:

- Clarify responsibilities
- Embed compliance early
 - Ethics
 - CARE
 - GDPR
 - Copyright
 - Data Sharing Agreement
- Support collaboration
- Enable trustworthy long-term FAIR sharing



Bres, E. E. (2025). A collection of AI generated images visualising various RDM aspects (2.0.0). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16925229>



CARE Principles in Practice

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FAIR and CARE data

The importance of sharing:

- Shared inclusive futures
- Repudiating power differentials and historical contexts
- Encouraging open and other data movements to consider both people and purpose in their advocacy and pursuit
- Access where possible, infusing research with needs and expectations of community



First Nations Example

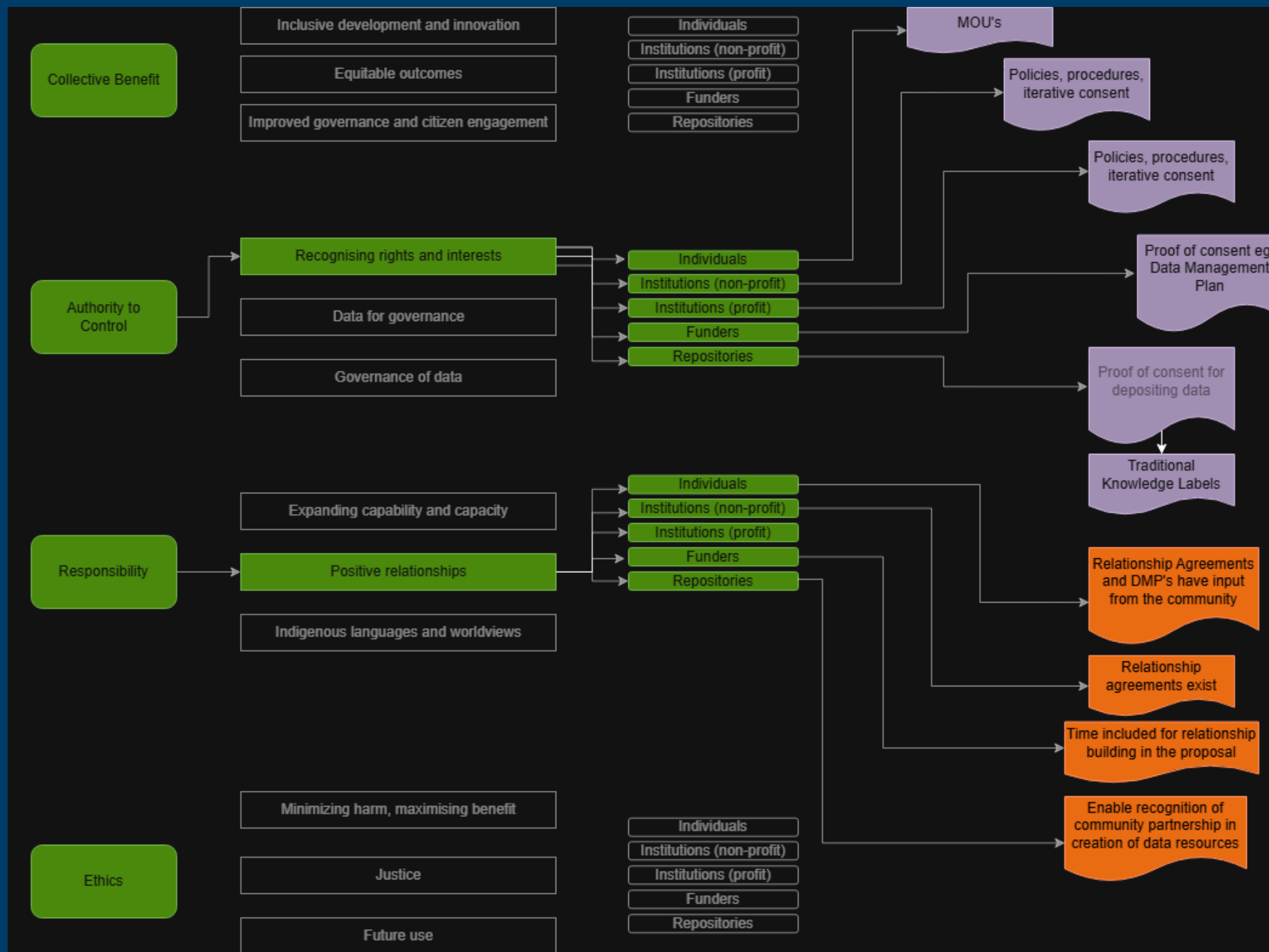
- Pre-CARE
- Dane-zaa community in British Columbia
- Collaboration with scholars at University of British Columbia
- Digitisation “augmented” sharing and understanding (the “[Dreamer’s Drum](#)”)
- Long-standing, intergenerational relationship
- Community needs put first Collective Benefit, Authority, Responsibility, Ethics

CARE Principles Webinar – May 2025

- [CARE Principles Webinar](#)
- Traveller community
- Over-researched

Questions Raised by Traveller Community:

- How can we do research that impact positively on communities?
- How can we do research without using dominant perspectives, constructs and terminologies?
- How can we minimize research that may culturally and contextually lack contingency with peoples experiences?



Examples in Ireland

- Rebel County Traveller Archive:
<https://www.rebelcountytravellerarchive.ie/>
- Song collecting
- Genome advancements
- Library of Congress subject headings

“Overall, this event made a significant contribution to how we think about research with the Traveller community, and the coming together of key individuals gave us a platform for thinking about how CARE principles could be advanced for research in an Irish context.”

- **FAIR and CARE**
- Privileging and using principles such as FAIR and CARE enables meaning-making and shared understanding
- Those of us in a position to further such enrichment must advocate for research practices that encourage CARE-ing and thinking beyond the page, for trustworthy long-term sharing
- **RDM checklists begin the process to encourage:**
- Embedding compliance, clarifying responsibilities (early), supporting collaborations.

Go raibh maith agaibh – thank you!



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