

# Developing a Data Management Guide for Researchers

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## Developing our Guide

Researchers are faced with an evolving array of expectations related to how they manage and share data. Academic libraries are well positioned to provide support related to research data management (RDM) owing to their extensive expertise in preserving and curating information<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately, researchers and RDM service providers think and talk about data in very different ways and RDM assessment tools are often several steps removed from a researcher's day-to-day practice.

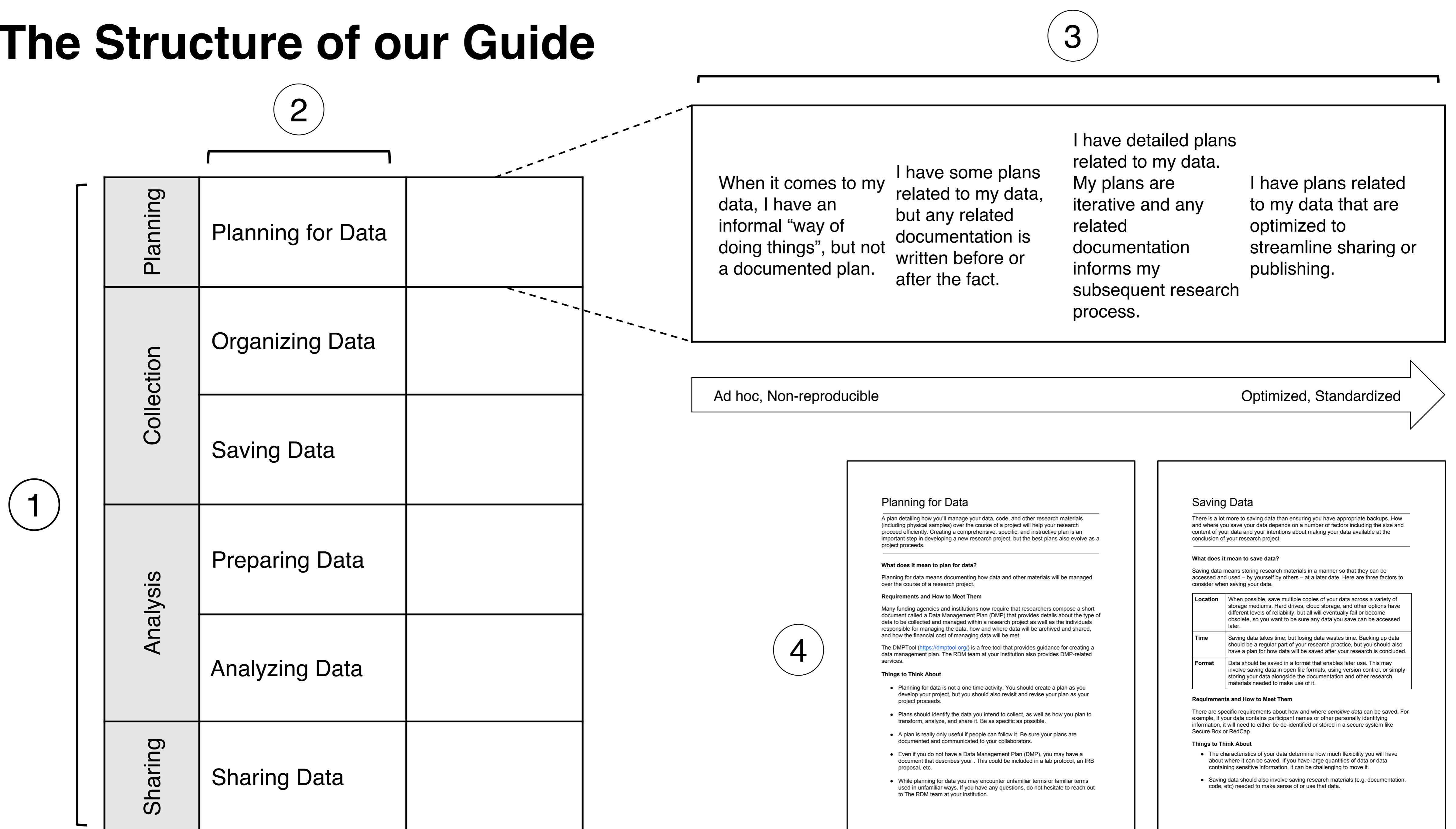
To address these difficulties, we are developing a customizable set of tools that describe data-related practices using language and terminology familiar to researchers.

This project consists of two related elements, a customizable rubric intended to enable researchers to self-assess their data-related practices and a series of one page guides designed to provide actionable information regarding requirements, standards, and best practices.

**RDM Rubric:** Building upon maturity-based assessment tools<sup>2</sup>, the rubric is intended to help researchers self-assess how they manage their data over the course of a research project.

**Guides:** Drawing from the data curation literature, the guides are intended to provide researchers concrete information about how to advance their data-related practices.

## The Structure of our Guide



- 1. Phases of the research project:** Terminology drawn from a review of research data lifecycle models.
- 2. Activities within each phase:** Terminology drawn from an informal survey of how researchers actually describe their work.

- 3. Declarative statements:** Intended to allow researchers to self-assess the maturity of their data-related practices.
- 4. Each row of the RDM rubric is tied to a guide that provides information about requirements, standards, and best practices.**

## A Call to Action

As we develop our tools, we are seeking feedback from (and encouraging collaboration with) librarians, researchers, and other research data management stakeholders.

If you would like to receive information about the development of our tools, provide feedback, or discuss collaborating on institution or discipline-specific versions, please get in touch with John Borghi at [John.Borghi@UCOP.edu](mailto:John.Borghi@UCOP.edu).

### Works Cited

- Cox, A. M., & Verbaan, E. (2016). How academic librarians, IT staff, and research administrators perceive and relate to research. *Library & Information Science Research*, 38(4), 319-326.
- Crowston, K., & Qin, J. (2011). A capability maturity model for scientific data management: Evidence from the literature. *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 48(1), 1-9.



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