Don't lose it – use it!

A guide to archiving library and information science research data

http://wilisdatacuration.web.unc.edu/

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Background

Researchers and funders continue to be concerned about the lack of archiving of scientific data. Such data can be useful to researchers, educators, students and policy makers for secondary analysis. The WILIS projects (2005-2013), funded by IMLS, consist of: 1) an in-depth retrospective career survey of graduates of LIS programs in North Carolina with 2,653 respondents (WILIS1); 2) a modified recent graduates' survey that was tested in 39 LIS programs in North America (WILIS2) with 3,507 respondents; and 3) the archiving of the WILIS1&2 datasets in the Odum Institute Dataverse Network, a publicly accessible data archive, and the creation of a guide to data archiving (WILIS3).

This poster presents the WILIS 3 study and lessons learned from archiving the WILIS data sets.

Methods

The WILIS projects brought together various stakeholders who have an interest in archiving research data for public use, educator use and researcher use. Our WILIS3 partners were Survey Sciences Group (SSG), a web survey company responsible for the WILIS data collection, and the Odum Institute at UNC Chapel Hill. Each partner brought a different perspective to preparation of the data archiving guide:

- **Researcher perspective** (WILIS team) –survey design and logic, needs of LIS stakeholders, human subjects protection, analysis needs.
- **Data collection perspective** (SSG) –survey software, programming, data structure, sample management, methodological issues.
- **Data archivist perspective** (Odum Institute) –standards for data preservation, de-identification procedures, Dataverse interface and capabilities, ingesting process.

WILIS 3 Guide to Data Archiving

The WILIS guide provides a model for integrating archiving activities throughout the research process and highlights best practices for designing and implementing a data management plan throughout the project lifecycle. The web-based guide employs an interactive user-interface and illustrates how one might provide enhanced context for secondary users of research data within the data archive. Ultimately, better planning will result in higher quality data archiving. The guide is available at the study website:

www.wilis.unc.edu

Integrating Data Curation Concepts into the Research Data Lifecycle
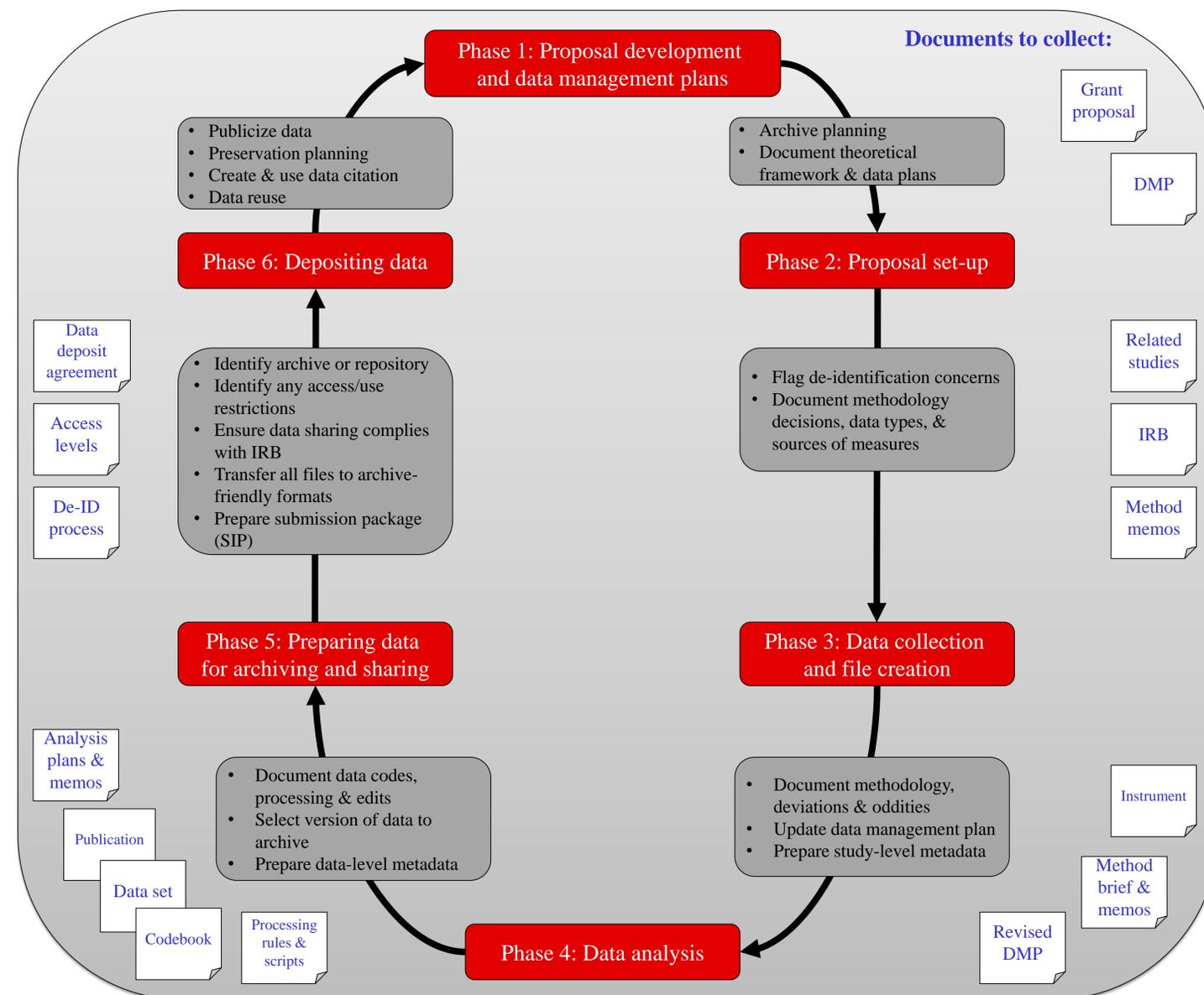
Research data lifecycle based on ICPSR's Data Lifecycle Model (2012)

Lessons Learned from the WILIS project

- Contact a data archive or repository early in the study
- Include your intention to archive research data in IRB application
- Document throughout the research process
- Plan ahead for archiving activities such as metadata generation & de-identification
- Protecting human subject privacy is time-consuming
- Designate resources to data archiving