



# AUBURN UNIVERSITY POLICY ON RESEARCH DATA AND OTHER RESEARCH PRODUCTS

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# WHY DOES AUBURN NEED A POLICY?

- To preserve and add value to Auburn-generated research
- To protect the institution's interest in the products of research
- To reinforce the requirements of funders and oversight groups
- Because investigators are looking for institutional guidance:  
“What does Auburn say I should do?”

# WHAT SHOULD A RESEARCH DATA POLICY ACCOMPLISH?

- Define what constitutes research data (and other research products)
- Assert AU's interest in knowing what was created, how much, where it is stored, and how it can be accessed
- Clarify researchers' rights and responsibilities with regard to the data they produce, especially in the case of ownership disputes
- Codify procedures for the retention, protection, description, preservation, and sharing of data/other research products

# HOW DOES IT PROTECT AUBURN RESEARCHERS?

- Researchers need clear guidelines reflecting current standards for research data procedures and practices
- Researchers who store or share data and other research products using commercial entities may dilute ownership and control
- AU Libraries, along with units such as OVPR, can advise researchers on their rights, and Auburn's, when storing and sharing data

# DATA PRESERVATION AND FUTURE COMPATIBILITY

- As a mission-driven land-grant university, AU has a responsibility to ensure long-term access to research products that can be reused
- AU Libraries has subject-matter experts in the description and preservation of information, including research data
- Records are needed for each research dataset produced at AU
- AU should maintain access to data and other research products; researchers should assist with University requests as necessary

# RESEARCH IMPACT FOR INVESTIGATORS AND AUBURN

- Demonstrating the impact of well-described and accessible products of research is easier
- Data citation and high-value repurposing of data should be part of researchers' professional evaluations
- AU Libraries can assist in tracking the overall impact of research, including datasets and other research products
- Raising the profile of AU researchers raises the profile of AU

# CURRENT STATUS OF THE DRAFT DATA POLICY

- A proposed AU data policy was drafted based on model language from such policies at other universities
- It has been presented to and shared with the Associate Deans for Research and the Faculty Research Committee
- Feedback is being collected from faculty and other university stakeholders
- An updated draft will be presented to the University Senate