Charting the course: Developing a roadmap of research priorities in the Canadian RDM landscape

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What is the Portage Network?

Portage is a Canadian research data management (RDM) initiative assisting researchers and other stakeholders via a library-based network of experts.

It develops national platforms and services for planning, preserving, and discovering research data. Portage is managed by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.
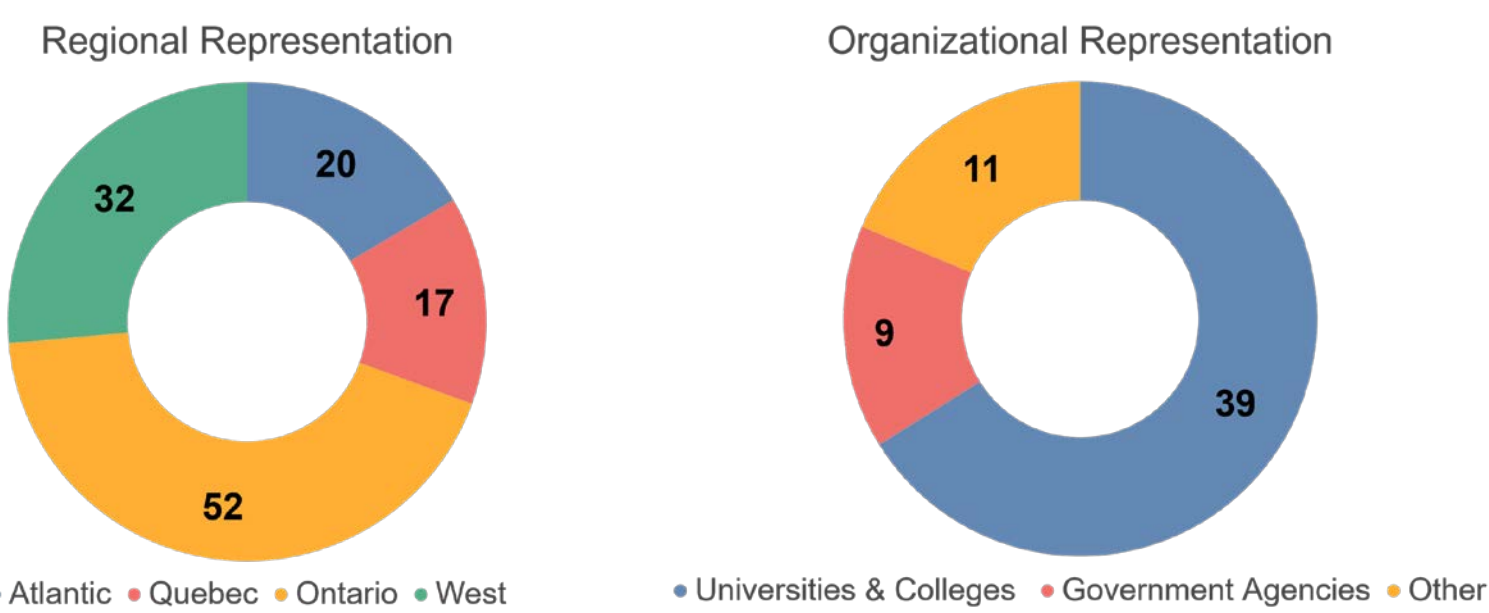
Regional Representation / **Organizational Representation**

Figure 1. Characterization of Portage Network membership according to regional and organizational affiliation.

Network of Experts

- Develops resources, expert advice, and practical help to assist with the management of research data
- Expertise is provided in English and French to anyone working in a Canadian university or research institution

► Areas of Expertise

- Data Management Planning
- Data Discovery
- Curation
- Preservation
- Training
- Research Intelligence
- Institutional Planning
- Sensitive Data
- Data Repositories

Research Intelligence Expert Group

The Research Intelligence Expert Group (RIEG) provides intelligence on RDM in Canada through development and oversight of targeted studies designed to gather evidence.

► Roadmap Building

A high-level roadmap was developed to identify key priorities and bridge gaps in our knowledge about RDM practices, developments, culture and policies in Canada.

RIEG does its work in collaboration with other Portage expert groups.

The roadmap is intended to guide RIEG for the next two years.

CURATION

- Development of introductory and discipline-specific guidance, best practices, and templates to support training and practice.
- Survey of existing services and policies to support curators and associated stakeholders in their practice.

SERVICES

- Survey of existing services and capacity to support RDM at institutional, regional, and national scales.
- Development of guidance and tools to support training of a wide range of stakeholders related to topics in RDM, especially the development and evaluation of data management plans.
- Outreach and promotion of benefits of RDM, to promote successful adoption of best practices and use of services.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Investigation of the state of repositories needed for both storage and publication, including active and big data.
- Assessment of tools and applications to connect storage infrastructure for all points of the data lifecycle and for different disciplines.
- Investigation of the current state of Trusted Digital Repository certification of Canadian data repositories.

DATA SHARING & REUSE

- Gathering of insight into disciplinary data sharing and data reuse practices within Canada.
- Continued work with national bodies to create researcher-oriented resources for data sharing, use metrics and promote data discoverability.

POLICY & LAW

- Development of training material for federal and provincial laws and guidance for working with confidential and sensitive data.
- Assessment and monitoring of Canadian policy environment at the federal funding level related to strategic planning and RDM service development.
- Assessment of progress of institutional strategy development in anticipation of the Tri-Agency RDM policy.

Taxonomy and Sources Reviewed

To understand the current research landscape, RIEG members conducted an environmental scan focused on select outputs of regulatory, governmental, and professional bodies. Content and scope analyses of compiled sources were conducted through the application of a novel taxonomy developed by RIEG to support the description and organization of sources according to key subject areas.

1. The taxonomy was applied independently to each publication reviewed.
2. All classifications were conducted independently by two reviewers, with a third independent reviewer resolving any inconsistencies.
3. Subject areas and associated publications were examined through both Canadian and international lenses to understand the current RDM landscape, determine gaps and prioritize areas for further research.

Link to Taxonomy: http://bit.ly/Portage-RIEG-Taxonomy

Figure 2. Frequency distribution of taxonomy terms applied to publications reviewed in the environmental scan.

Figure 3. Characterization of publications reviewed in the environmental scan according to publication year and region.