

The Data Management Audit as an Academic Library Service

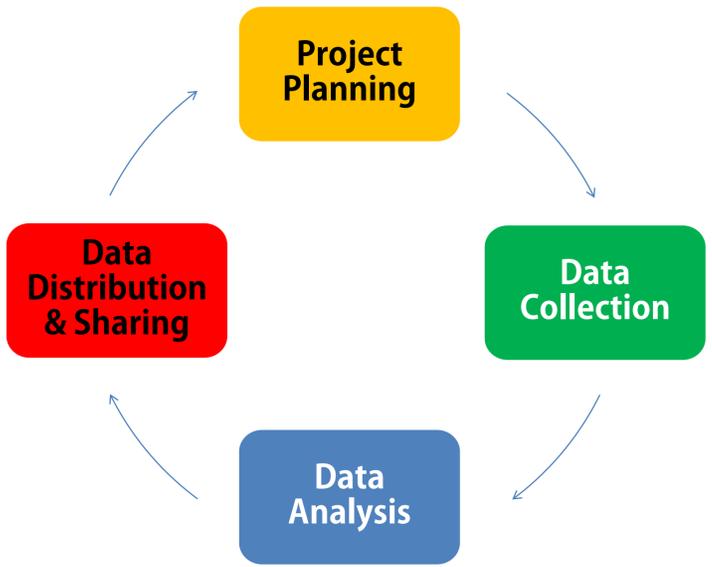


Christopher Eaker¹ (ceaker@utk.edu)
 Mentors: Kate Young² (kbeierle@ucar.edu) and Scot Loehrer² (loehrer@ucar.edu)
¹University of Tennessee, Knoxville
²National Center for Atmospheric Research

Abstract

Managing data with long term preservation in mind is more important than ever as research-intensive science produces increasingly higher volumes of digital data. Nevertheless, many of the people tasked with managing data have very little data management training and employ inconsistent practices (Carlson, Fosmire, Miller, & Nelson, 2011). Recent requirements for data management plans in grant proposals has provided an opportunity for academic libraries to meet a need on their campuses (Heidorn, 2011). Hence, while science expertise is quite useful, librarians within academic libraries can offer valuable assistance in managing that data, as they, historically, have strengths related to the access and preservation of information and knowledge, such as classifying, describing, distributing, and storing (Pryor, 2012; Jones, Ball, & Ekmekcioglu, 2008; Soehner, Steeves, & Ward, 2010).

One such way librarians within academic libraries can offer help to their scientific colleagues is by conducting an audit of their data management practices. Through an audit, the auditor can identify **areas of strength, areas needing improvement, redundant activities, and useful tools**. The goal of the data management audit is to increase efficiency and improve data management practices within a research group or project, which will, in turn, support the long term preservation and access of data sets.



Data Management Audit Lifecycle

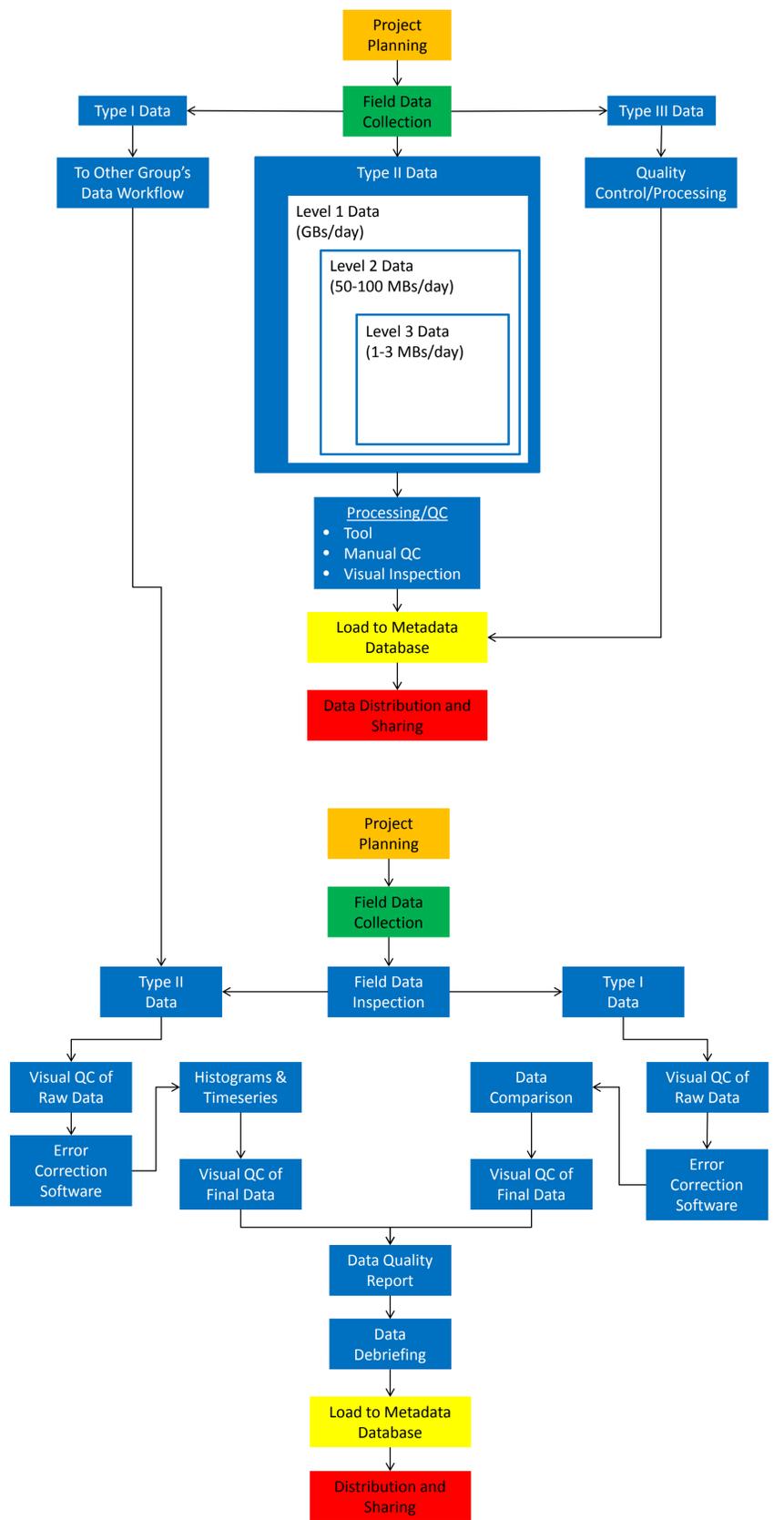
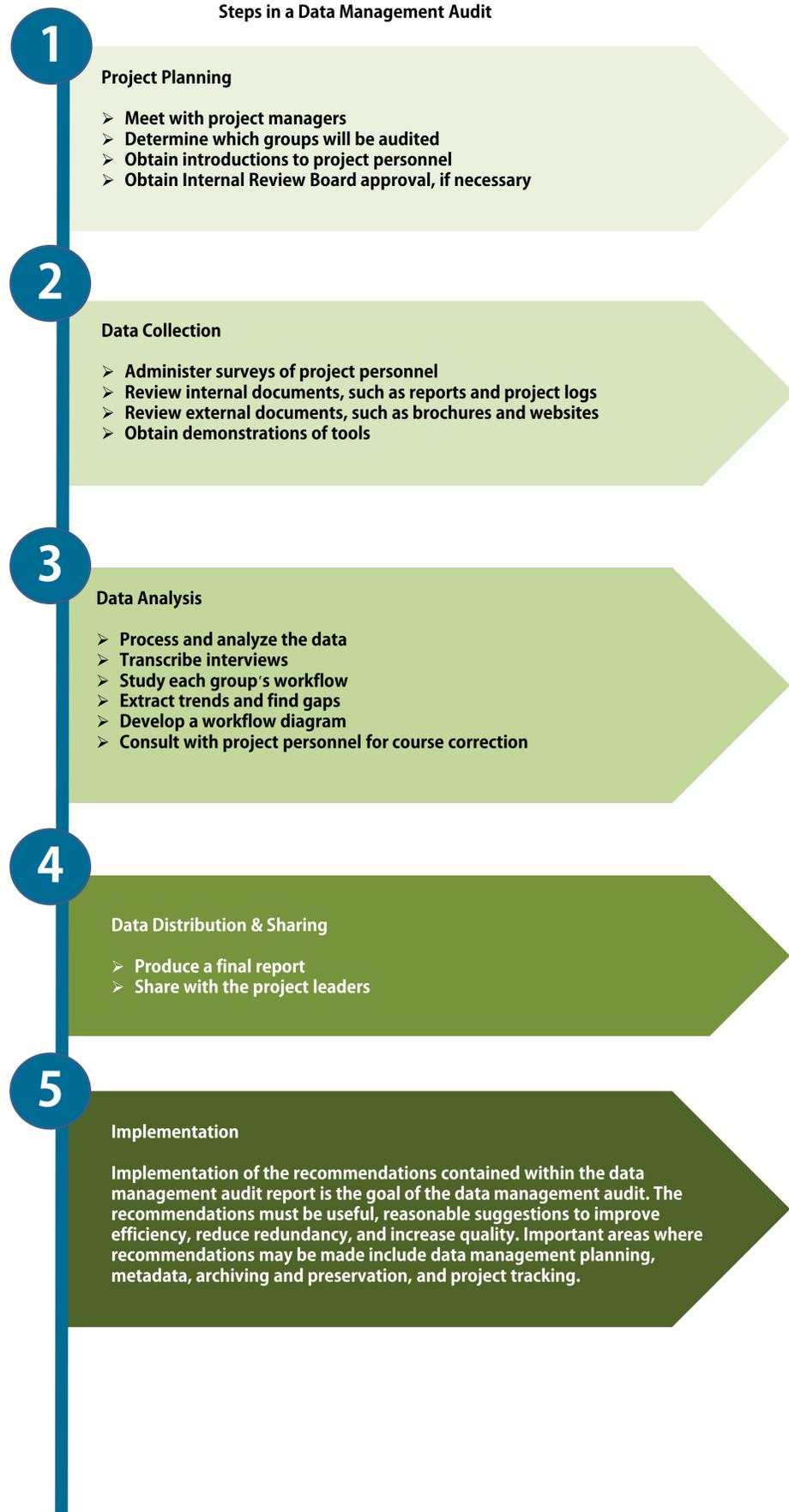
References

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Heidorn, P. B. (2011). The emerging role of libraries in data curation and e-science. *Journal of Library Administration*, 51(7-8), 662-672. doi: 10.1080/01930826.2011.601269

Jones, S., Ball, A., & Ekmekcioglu, C. (2008). The data management audit framework: A first step in the data management challenge. *International Journal of Digital Curation*, 3(2).

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Example Data Workflow Diagram