
Dissertation Research on the Litigation Process

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTool

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Roles and responsibilities

There are five principle areas of responsibility:

1. management of the data management plan (DMP);
2. training other investigators and non-project staff in data collection and/or management in the field;
3. short-term storage and backup of the data during and immediately following the data collection period;
4. dissemination of data during and immediately following the data collection period;
5. long-term storage and custodianship of the data.

The project PI Joseph L. Smith and project Co-PI Matthew Reid Krell will be responsible for the monitoring and administration of the data management plan (DMP); data collection and training other investigators and nonproject staff in data collection and/or management in the field; administering and monitoring the short-term storage and backup of the data; and disseminating certain parts of the data (workshop materials, photos, videos) to research participants during the data collection period.

Three years after the data collection period, the PI and Co-PI will transfer long-term custodianship of the data in perpetuity to the Inter-University Consortium for Political Science Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI and the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse at the University of Michigan School of Law in Ann Arbor, MI.

Expected data

The research will produce the following types of data:

1. Collected legal documents that are matters of public record.
2. Coded datasets measuring the following variables:
 - a. The number of affirmative defenses asserted.
 - b. The number of contested jury instructions.
 - c. The number of contested plaintiff's jury instructions given by the court.

Period of data retention

The PI and Co-PI will retain exclusive right to use the data for three years following the conclusion of the data collection period in order to complete coding, analysis, and publication of results, including several single author and co-authored journal articles and a co-authored book.

Three years after the data collection period concludes, the data will be made publicly available in perpetuity through the Inter-University Consortium for Political Science Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI and the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse at the University of Michigan School of Law in Ann Arbor, MI.

Data format and dissemination

Documents collected from court records will be maintained in Portable Document Format (PDF), the format in which they will be produced to the PI and Co-PI. They will be made available in printed form upon request.

The datasets derived from these documents will be maintained in Excel, SAS, SPSS, Stata, R, and CSV formats to maximize their availability to users of multiple software platforms.

Data will not be anonymized, in accordance to an exception to IRB protocol, because all data are drawn from public records.

Data storage and preservation of access

During the data collection period and in the three subsequent years, all data will be stored in digital form on a secure university server as well as backed up on a third-party server such as Dropbox.

Three years subsequent to the conclusion of the data collection period, custodianship of the data will be transferred in digital form to the Inter-University Consortium on Political Science Research (ICPSR) and the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse (CRLC). ICPSR maintains electronic data on University of Michigan servers and provides no-cost access to all data. CRLC maintains electronic scans of court documents used in civil rights litigation research on University of Michigan servers and provides no-cost access to all documents

Additional possible data management requirements

None.