Summary of activities that generate data

Guidance:
Data sharing in this policy refers to final research data. These data are the recorded factual materials commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to document and support research findings. This policy applies to new data collection as well as to data obtained through transforming or linking existing datasets. For most studies, an electronic file will constitute the final research data. This dataset will include both raw data and derived variables, which will be fully described in accompanying documentation section.

Consider these questions:
- How will you capture or create the data?
- Are you pulling from existing data sources?

Data types and classification

Guidance:
Describe how your data will be “documented.” Think about what information is needed for the data to be read and interpreted in the future. What would someone else need to be able to use these files? The documentation should include a summary of the purpose of the data collection, methodology and procedures used to collect the data, timing of the data collection, as well as details of the data codes, definition of variables, variable field locations, and frequencies. The data documentation should be a comprehensive and stand alone document that includes all the information necessary to replicate the analysis performed by the original research team.

Consider these questions:
- What data will you collect or create in the research?
- What data types will you be creating or capturing and what data will be shared?
- What metadata/documentation will be submitted alongside the data or created on deposit/transformation in order to make the data reusable?
- What contextual details (metadata) are needed to make the data you capture or collect meaningful?
- How will you create or capture these details?

Preservation

Guidance:
Is a short-term storage plan provided?
Is a plan provided for transition from data acquisition to short-term storage, to long-term storage and preservation of the data (if relevant)?
Is the short-term plan consistent with NIST P 5700.00 and O 5701.00 Managing Public Access to Results of Federally Funded Research?
Is the long-term plan consistent NIST P 5700.00 and O 5701.00 Managing Public Access to Results of Federally Funded Research?
Describe whether and how the data generated by the identified activities will be reviewed and made available to the public. The plan should describe any known access restrictions for the data and/or metadata, if appropriate. Note that NIST does not currently require deposit in any specific repositories. Data is expected to be made publicly available unless such a release is not permitted (e.g., data contains personally identifiable information (PII) or business identifiable information (BII)). If data will not be made publicly available, justification must be provided.

- How will data quality be assured?
- Will the data be made publicly available? (If not, why not?)
- Will the data be published? Where?
- If it is not published, how will it be made discoverable and accessible to the public?
- Who will review the data to ensure its quality before it is released to the public?
- Will the data be provided in a non-proprietary, machine-readable, and machine-actionable format?
- Will supporting documents be provided (e.g., a data dictionary) to allow for re-use of the data?