

CALL FOR TRAINING WORKSHOP

DATA SHARING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD
OCTOBER 1 - 4, 2019
MUSCAT, OMAN

The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS), through its new initiative the Arab Social Science Data Archive, is pleased to announce a four-day workshop on “Data Sharing for the Public Good” co-organized with the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The workshop will be held from October 1 to 4, 2019 in Muscat, Oman and is designed for researchers, administrators, librarians, and archivists focusing on the importance of data archiving for social science and public policy, and on global best practices in data archiving.

The benefits of making data open and accessible have been widely discussed within the academic and public policy communities. Sharing research data enables others to verify and build upon published results, supports transparency and accountability of research findings, increases the return on public investments in research, encourages new scientific innovations, and facilitates collaboration within and across disciplines. However, there are real challenges associated with sharing data with the broader community. Fortunately, many of these challenges can be overcome with careful data management planning and implementation.

The Arab Social Science Data Archive initiative aims to address the fact that quantitative research methods and the datasets to which they are applied are not widely accessible in the Arab region. It aims to create an ACSS Dataverse as an ongoing resource with a growing number of quantitative datasets on the Arab region for use by Arab social scientists.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop will examine the opportunities and challenges of creating and sharing high-quality data resources both from an individual researcher and from an institutional perspective.

Workshop participants will learn about:

- The benefits of quantitative data sharing to both the individual researcher and to the scientific enterprise as a whole;
- The complexities of research data based on disciplinary context, format, technical requirements, and applicable policies;
- The implementation of data management standards and best practices across the research data lifecycle to produce and share high-quality datasets;
- Preparation of datasets for analysis and best practices in data processing;
- The application of the Data Quality Review framework for ensuring computational reproducibility of reported research findings;
- Mechanisms for archiving research data for long-term preservation, discovery, access, and reuse; and
- The basics of data curation and the planning of institutional services for researchers.



Workshop Format

- The four-day training workshop will be held in English
- Training will be from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm
- On Day 2 of the workshop, two parallel sessions will be conducted on data analytics, one for those at beginner level and another for those at intermediate to advanced level
- On days 3 and 4 of the workshop, there will be 2 tracks for participants to choose from. Track 1 will focus on data documentation and data quality in the social sciences from a researcher's perspective. Track 2 will focus on data curation challenges faced by librarians and administrators
- Participants are expected to fully participate in all sessions
- Participants will be given an official ACSS-Odum Institute certificate upon successful completion of the workshop

Tentative Training Workshop Agenda

Day 1: Introduction to Research Data Management

Tuesday: October 1, 2019
09:00 – 13:00 (includes break) - Research data: Opportunities, life cycle and complexities
The research data lifecycle
Making data FAIR
Topics of Research Data Management Plans
13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch Break
14:00 – 17:00 (includes break) - Research Data Management Exercise
Exercise: Planning your research data workflows

Day 2: Data Cleaning & Analytics

Wednesday: October 2, 2019
9:00 – 13:00 (includes break) - Data cleaning and analytics I
Introduction
Group 1 (Beginners level): Tidy Data Principles: Organising and cleaning data in spreadsheets
Group 2 (Intermediate to advanced level): R or Stata exercises
13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch break
14:00 – 17:00 (includes break) - Data cleaning and analytics II
Group 1 (Beginners level): Introduction to R
Group 2 (Intermediate to advanced level): R or Stata exercises

Day 3: Metadata & documentation

Thursday: October 3, 2019
9:00 – 13:00 (includes break) - Data documentation
Introduction to metadata and data documentation (ALL)
Track 1: Data Documentation in the Social Sciences (Quantitative data management for researchers)
Track 2: Managing holdings with diverse metadata standards (Data archiving for librarians and administrators)
13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch Break
14:00 – 17:00 (includes break) - Bringing it all together
Track 1: DDI exercises (Quantitative data management for researchers)
Track 2: Data curation, preservation and infrastructure development (Data archiving for librarians and administrators)

Day 4 Building & curating data sets

Friday: October 4, 2019
9:00 – 13:00 (includes break) - Data documentation
Track 1: Ensuring data quality and building data sets (Quantitative data management for researchers)
Track 2: Exercise: Planning institutional services and infrastructure (Data archiving for librarians and administrators)
13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch Break
14:00 – 17:00 (includes break) – Into the Dataverse
Utilizing the global research data infrastructure
The ACSS Dataverse
Conclusion and feedback

Eligibility Guidelines

Applicants must:

- Be citizens of an Arab League member state or nationals of an Arab country (defined as long-term residents, even if they do not hold citizenship as in the case of refugees or stateless residents)
- Reside in the Arab region. ACSS will not fund participants who study or reside outside the region
- Have at least intermediate level proficiency in English, as the workshop will be conducted in English
- Have a minimum of a Master's degree in social science or related field (Economics, Political Science, Development Studies, Statistics, Computer Sciences, Library and Information Sciences, etc) or Bachelor's degree with at least 5 years of relevant work experience.
- Be currently working/involved in social science data management as researchers, administrators, librarians, and/or archivists in an academic or non-academic environment (such as public institutions, NGOs, etc)

Application Process and Selection

Applicants are required to apply online by sending the following (in **English**) to assm@theacss.org noting "ACSS/Odum training workshop" in the subject line.

- (1) CV/Resume. The following should be included in the CV/Resume: *Citizenship, Level of highest degree (Doctoral, Masters, Bachelor), Field of study, Job title, Name and Country of current employing institution, Current field of work.*
- (2) Motivation Letter. The letter should describe how the applicant's current work relates to the training and how the knowledge/skills learned during the training workshop may be applied at work (200 words maximum)

Application deadline is September 1, 2019, 5:00 pm (Beirut time)

The selection committee is comprised of staff members from ACSS and faculty of the Odum Institute who will review applications based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of current position
- Academic qualifications
- Language proficiency

By submitting the electronic application, applicants affirm that they agree, without any objections, to the evaluation and selection results as decided and announced by the selection committee and ACSS. All decisions made by the selection committee are final.

Accepted Applicants

Except for residents of Muscat, Oman, accepted applicants will be provided:

- Round-trip transportation from their home country or city
- Accommodations in Muscat for the duration of the workshop and a per diem (daily allowance)

Accepted applicants are expected to:

- Provide their own laptop with access to spreadsheet software (Excel, Google Sheets, Libreoffice Calc etc.) and do have or are able to install R and/or Stata (depending on tracks)
- Participate fully and attend all sessions of the workshop

Please direct all queries to assm@theacss.org noting "ACSS/Odum training workshop" in the subject line.

About the Arab Council for the Social Sciences

The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) is a regional, independent, non-profit organization headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon. The ACSS works across the Arab region as well as globally. It aims to promote and support the social sciences throughout the 22 countries in the Arab region by providing funding, training, mentorship, publications and networking opportunities. It seeks to achieve this objective by promoting quality research in the region; establishing networks of knowledge production; enhancing research collaborations regionally, cross-regionally and globally; disseminating, validating and utilizing the produced knowledge; and providing a model for academic excellence and professional standards in the region. For more information, please visit <http://www.theacss.org>.

About the Odum Institute

Founded in 1924, the Howard W. Odum Institute for Research in the Social Sciences supports the social science teaching and research mission at UNC. The Institute provides a range of consulting services on quantitative and qualitative methods, GIS and spatial analysis, survey research, and data management. Odum offers workshops, summer courses, and a graduate certificate program. For more information, please visit <http://odum.unc.edu>.

About the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

UNC-Chapel Hill, founded in 1789 as the first public university in the United States, is a global higher education leader known for innovative teaching, research and public service. A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, the University offers 78 Bachelor's, 112 Master's, 68 Doctorate and seven professional degree programs. For more information, please visit <http://www.unc.edu>.