Get Me Data! A Data Purchase Program for Students

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GetMeData: A Data Purchase Program for students

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Miami University
Ohio IR day
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Miami University

• Academic focus on Undergraduate Research
• High proportion of students are undergrads
• How does the library respond?
  – Liaison and personal librarians
  – Programs targeted to the undergraduates
  – Library is home to external undergraduate support organizations
  – Collection development strategies....
Research needs data

• Undergraduate students work on a very short time frame.
• They don’t have years to finish a project – only a few months.
• Grant programs take too long.
• Students don’t have the credentials needed for many grants.
Library response

• How can the library respond to students’ need for data?
• We put together a program to use a portion of our collection development funds to purchase data.
• Fast turn around – we want to get the data to the student in weeks so they can finish their project and graduate.
Program Goals

• Connect students with their liaison librarians for all types of library support during their research.
• Help the student find free and quickly available data.
• Purchase data for the student.
• Purchase data for the campus community.
How do students find the program?

• Liaison librarians know about the program.
• Students with data questions are sent to the data librarian.
• Link on the library home page under Research.
• Occasional blog posts and general emails.
• Librarian sessions in classrooms promote it.
Program Overview

• Introduction page gives an overview and requirements.
• Students must talk with a liaison librarian.
• Students must have a faculty mentor.
• The purchased data must be made available for the whole campus.
The Miami University Libraries will purchase data for students' research.

This is a program to promote access to specialized data.

The data may be numeric, textual, spatial, visual, audio, etc. in electronic form.

Proposals may:
- Be submitted by students
- Have a faculty sponsor
- Include a description of and timeline for the research along with expected graduation dates of the participants. When will you need/use the data?
- Explain the importance of the data for the research or project.
- Show why freely available data is not sufficient.
- Make a case for additional Miami users of the data. We would like to circulate and reuse the data.
- Have a full description of the data including how it will help the project.
- Include descriptions of other data being used in the research.
- Show data purchase rights that allow the data to be circulated through the catalog.
- Include the data's source, price, vendor, and vendor's contact information.
• Show why freely available data is not sufficient.
• Make a case for additional Miami users of the data. We would like to circulate and reuse the data.
• Have a full description of the data including how it will help the project.
• Include descriptions of other data being used in the research.
• Show data purchase rights that allow the data to be circulated through the catalog.
• Include the data’s source, price, vendor, and vendor’s contact information.
• Include a statement from their liaison librarian about other data resources that were examined.
• Indicate if any matching funds have been secured for the data.
• Data will be purchased outright, with no leasing, subscription or continuing payments.

Proposals should also include a commitment that:
• The undergraduates will give a local, public presentation to which the library committee is invited, focusing on how they used and transformed the data.
• Scholarly output from the data is to be archived in the Miami Scholarly Commons. (The Center for Digital Scholarship can help with the upload and give author’s rights guidance concerning future publishing.)
• Any report, poster, article or other output includes the phrase - "This research is supported in part by the Miami University Libraries." in addition to giving appropriate source credit.

Both Undergraduate and Graduate students are invited to submit requests. For more information email dataplans@miamioh.edu
Login

• Logins look up the person’s status
  – Student
  – Faculty
  – Librarian

• Customize the page for the patron.
Login using your Miami unique ID and password

Login
Your unique ID: 

Your password: 

Log in Log out

Enter Applicant's unique ID:

If you are a librarian or faculty member, enter the student's unique id to view their application.

Applicant's unique ID: 

View application
Hello Mr. Eric O. Johnson.
Librarians should indicate that they helped the student search for data.

Status: in progress
Questions? Email dataplans@miamioh.edu

Title - Give your data request a name. It can be related to your research project name if you wish.

Research Description - Describe your research project and its expected goals. What are you researching? How do you plan to share the results?

Researchers - What are the names and unique IDs of each person directly involved in the research. What are their expected graduation dates?

Faculty - Names and unique IDs of faculty sponsor(s)
Faculty - Names and unique IDs of faculty sponsor(s)

Timeline - What is your expected timeline for this research? When will you need the data in this request?

Data Description - What do you want the library to purchase? Include a URL that points directly to the data. Include Name and Contact information for the Vendor, the name of the Dataset, the Price and enough information that we can find the data.

Importance - Explain how this particular data is important for your research and why it is essential. What freely available data have you looked at and why is the other data not sufficient for your research?

Other Users - How do you imagine other researchers using this data?

Other Data - What other data will you be using in your research?
Interface techniques

- Interface is user and context aware.
- If the user has a request in progress, the status of the request is displayed.
- If the user is a librarian or faculty member, they see (but can’t edit) the student’s input. But, they can edit their own response.
Librarian Statement - From a Miami University Librarian about data resources that were examined.

List of other data sources examined and state that free sources of relevant data are not available.

Find a librarian
Email the student

Faculty Statement - A statement of support from a Miami University faculty advisor.

Is the student at the place in their research where they will be needing this data?

Email your advisor

Matching Funds - have you received additional funds that can help purchase this data? (from your department, faculty, liaison librarians, etc.)

What other funds are available to help purchase this data? The library is more able to grant requests if the cost is shared.
Statement of Commitment:

1. The applicant researchers will give a local, public presentation to which the library community is invited, focusing on how they used and transformed the data.
2. Scholarly output from the data is to be archived in the Miami Scholarly Commons.
3. Any report, poster, article or other output includes the phrase "This research is supported in part by the Miami University Libraries" in addition to giving appropriate source credit.

The Center for Digital Scholarship can give guidance for each of these.

Submit your application
Goal - 1

• The first goal is to connect the student to a librarian.
• The librarian can help the student in many ways to achieve a good project result.
Goal - 2

• The second goal is to get data for the student.
• Usually this means finding free data that is immediately available.
Goal – 3, 4

• The third and fourth goals are to purchase data for the student and campus community.
• We don’t rent data.
• The data agreement must allow sharing with the whole campus.
• Sometimes librarians will pitch in to purchase expensive data that is relevant to their area.
Collection Development

• This is a form of patron driven acquisitions.
• We let the students help guide the purchases to meet their needs.
• Our institutional repository has a top level section for datasets.
The repository is a service of the Miami University libraries. Research and scholarly output included here has been selected and deposited by the individual university departments and centers on campus. To learn more about Scholarly Commons, please visit our FAQ page.

Communities in Scholarly Commons

Select a community to browse its collections.

Data Sets
Faculty Research and Scholarship
Research Centers
Student Research and Scholarship
University Events and Lectures
University Libraries
Agreement limits

• Many data producers want to limit the access to their datasets.

• When we put data in our IR, we can add a login so that only authenticated university users may download the files.

• This restricts use to our campus and satisfies the data producers' concerns.
This collection is restricted

You do not have the credentials to access the restricted collection Purchased Data Sets.

Proceed to login screen
Results?

• One dataset we purchased a couple years ago was a political risk dataset showing the Political, Financial and Economic risks of all countries for a 20 year period.

• The faculty member said it was a hot topic so we purchased it for the student.

• It soon became one of the most visited items in our IR.
Cost per checkout?

• We are still getting a two to three dozen campus downloads each month of this dataset.

• While expensive (about $2000), the cost per use of about $2.35 is better than many monographs in the library.
Limits

• Not all undergraduate students do research.

• Getting the word out
  – Reminding liaison librarians
  – Informing students & faculty

• Hidden successes
  – Connecting students with librarians
  – Finding free and immediately available data for the students
Future

• More promotion
• Realize that it is a low effort/low cost method with high individual return.
  – But it may never have high volume.
Miami University Libraries
Data Purchase Program

Questions

Comments