Frequently Asked Questions
(drafted October 25, 2010; revised October 10, 2013)

1. What is UMD d-Commons?

UMD d-Commons is a repository for scholarly materials, most of which are openly accessible. UMD d-Commons ensures long-term preservation of these materials.

2. Why submit works to the UMD d-Commons?

- Increases citation impact
  - Provides increased visibility for your research and your unit, bringing many new readers to your content
  - Provides world-wide accessibility via search engines like Google or others. Your content is discoverable from a variety of locations and methods with no extra work on your part
  - Provides sophisticated searching, making your materials easy for readers to find

- Guarantees permanence
  - Assigns a stable, permanent URL to your work so readers will always find it

- Ensures quick, efficient archiving of your scholarly work
  - Relieves you and your unit of the responsibility for system maintenance
  - Removes information technology barriers

- Meets some grant requirements for dissemination
  - May help fulfill dissemination and data-sharing requirements of federal and other grants, including the NIH data-sharing requirements

3. What kinds of materials are appropriate for UMD d-Commons?

UMD d-Commons community administrator will decide what content to put in their respective community. Examples of content could include:

- Peer-reviewed materials (pre- or post-print, if rights retained)
- Creative works (including video, music, etc.)
- Gray literature (conference papers, working papers, primary evidence)
- Dissertations and theses
- Student research (with permission of student)

4. How to manage data generated from research funded by federal agencies or others?

- You need to create a Data Management Plan, based on the guidelines of the funding agency.
  - Funding Agency and Data Management Guidelines
  - Data Management 101: Planning Checklist
  - Data Management Plan Tool
  - Data Management Plan Examples
Why use UMD d-Commons for your research data?
- Comply with the requirement of the funding agency to provide easy access to your data to other researchers and the public in a timely manner
- Increase the impact of your research in the research community
- Archive and preserve your research data for perpetual use

Data Management Course