Q&A from Presentation 12/7/22

How would I go about starting to place data into Arcus?

To get started, provide the Arcus Library Science team with key information about the research and the data by completing the Arcus Data Contribution Intake form. Filling out this form allows us to set a timeframe for ingesting your data based on the complexity and organization of your project. Your request will be reviewed, and the Library Science team will reply with next steps.

The Library Science team will work to understand your research and requirements and determine how best to preserve your data and ensure reusability. If necessary and depending on the nature of the research and the data, the Library Science team will include technical, privacy, and subject matter experts as part of the process.

Are there costs either for chop investigators or for folks who want to access data that is stored in Arcus?

There are no costs to CHOP researchers for accessing Arcus tools or consultations. Data and analysis environments are delivered at no cost to researchers.

Services from affiliated, specialized teams, like the Clinical Reporting Unit (CRU), Data Science and Biostatistics Unit (DSBU), and Translation Informatics Group (TRiG) may incur additional costs, even if working within Arcus.

Please note that access to Arcus systems and data is restricted to CHOP personnel.

Does one need a dedicated bioinformatician to interface with it i.e., putting data in and getting data out?

No. Arcus team members will work with you to evaluate requests for data and/or deposit into the Archives. Our tools and processes aim to make interfacing with data possible without specialized skills.

Arcus is also designed to assist researchers in expanding their bioinformatics skills through educational resources, whether for basic data manipulation or advanced analysis. We can also refer you to the DSBU (Data Science and Biostatistics Unit), where additional costs may apply.

Does arcus archive data involve human subjects only? Or can we also use arcus to archive data from cell and animal models?

The primary interest of the Arcus Archives is human subjects. This does not preclude the collection of cell and animal model data with substantial research value.

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Will things like scripts/code used to generate the final data set need to be in a standard format to submit to arcus? Or is there some flexibility?

As a standard for archiving, Arcus aims to collect scripts in standardized formats to enhance access and reusability. We do not require any single type or format of a script, nor do we require the translation of scripts from one language to another arbitrarily. For data reuse, it is always preferable that code or scripts are in a non-proprietary format, i.e., a format that does not require a single software to open. Accordingly, we request an extension change if there is a change to a non-proprietary format with no or minimal changes to the code.

Additionally, there is flexibility in accepting novel types of scripts or uncommon formats for justified research purposes. For any scripts or code, we document the environment it was created in, including the operating system, language and version, libraries, and software. Usually, the documentation process uses a YAML file for application configuration files. Occasionally, we collect the code created in the image of the computer or lab.

Who controls internal and external access to data contributed to Arcus?

Contributor-approved metadata about contributed data is viewable through Arcus tools by CHOP researchers. Arcus mediates requests for data contributed to its Archives. Data access is not self-service. Arcus does strive to maximize reuse ability to contributed data, thus data is made available to authorized Arcus users without access restrictions, except where pre-existing governance terms prohibit.

Does Arcus upload data to dbGAP for investigators and facilitate the process (i.e. walk through the paperwork etc.)?

Arcus does not currently submit or facilitate submission to dbGAP or other external repositories. However, Arcus can assist with data organization and structure through Research Data Management consultations. In addition, the information and data formats required for submission to other repositories like dbGAP are like those required for submission to Arcus, so submitting to Arcus will help prepare your submission to dbGAP.

If we are required by our funding institute to submit to their repository, The NIMH Data Archive. Will Arcus submit for us if we submit data to Arcus? Or do we have to submit separately?

Data submissions to Arcus and other external repositories will need to be done separately. However, we can assist with data organization and structure through Research Data Management consultations.

Is there a general Arcus email?

The general Arcus support email is: arcus-support@chop.edu. You can also submit questions or requests through our Jira Help Desk at https://support.arcus.chop.edu/.

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