Preparing for your Research Data Consultation

What Should I bring to a Consultation?

Consults are limited to 50 minutes, so please come with a clear sense of what you need to tackle in this time. We encourage you to return as you progress through your research project.

Prior to your consultation, we ask that you:

1. Prepare a random sample of your data set that can be used by our consultants if demonstration code needs to be written from scratch. Details and instructions for doing so can be found here.

2. As appropriate, your complete data set, your code to date, and a clear description of what you need help with, and a list of all your variables (column names), a description of each column, and the measure of each column (see examples here).

How to share the above items:

- You will receive an invitation to a shared folder in Sharepoint. Please deposit the above items in this folder in advance of your appointment.

- Contents of this shared folder are viewable by our data consultants, the Data and Digital Scholarship Librarian, the CSC Coordinator, and the CSC Manager.

- If depositing your data in this shared folder is of concern, you can reach out to csc@ok.ubc.ca in advance of booking an appointment or directly with your data consultant after booking an appointment.

Our consultants provide guidance on the following:

- Writing of code to clean, organize, and otherwise prepare data for analysis.

- Interpretation of errors and identifying solutions to overcome these.

- Selection, application, and interpretation of statistical models used in analysis.

As part of this, they can:

- Assist in drafting code to address an error.

- Provide sample code to move a dataset through the data analysis pipeline (cleaning, organizing, imputing, etc.)

- Help with the suitability and interpretation of a statistical model.

- Advise on the selection of a statistical model, ideally before data collection

- Draft code to demonstrate the implementation a specific model.

While you wait for your appointment:

The Research Data Hub's consultation service sits on a continuum of learning opportunities offered through the Hub. These currently include:

- [Workshops](#) and [accompanying materials](#): learn foundational skills in R, Python, and statistics

- [A blog](#): explore common questions encountered during consultations

- [CSC drop-ins](#): meet members of your research support units or ask a quick question