

Approaching a Plan for Cyberinfrastructure for Social Science Data from the Arctic

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Considerations for Managing Social Science Data

Context of the Data: How were the data collected? Is there additional information needed to understand the data?

Privacy of the Research Subjects: Are their identities adequately protected?

Preservation of the Data: How do you best preserve a variety of file formats and structures, like audio, video, and GIS files and qualitative analysis packages from a single project?

Access to the Data: How can researchers and other users access the data and fully understand them for future research?

Potential Solutions for Curating Social Science Data

Create Complementary Metadata Standards for Social Science Data at the National Snow and Ice Data Center

Ensure Ethics (IRB) Protocols are Met for All Data Sources

Scientists and policy makers are realizing the importance of social science research and data in understanding how the rapid environmental change in the Arctic will affect human populations living in the Arctic and beyond. **Existing datasets from the social sciences can be used to perform new and creative analyses and visualizations at different scales, but data can be quickly lost due to a variety of factors, including the inability to use outdated file formats, the failure of the hard drive or server where the data are stored, or the loss of information concerning data collection and methodology.** Social science data, however, frequently take a different form than data from the physical sciences. Research is needed to ensure that data from the social sciences are adequately and appropriately managed, curated, and accessible in the future – a challenge this project is designed to address.



Ramona Harrison of NABO points out stratigraphy of a Viking-era house at Skuggi in northern Iceland (photo: Colleen Strawhacker)

Goals for the Project

Identify Best Practices for Managing Data from the Social Sciences

Perform Pilot Research with Social Scientists Working in the Arctic to Understand Pressing Issues in Data Management

Create a Holistic System to Manage and Curate Data from the Social Sciences in the Arctic Over the Long-Term



Inuit hunters in Clyde River, Nunavut, map traditional travel routes on Baffin Island as part of an International Polar Year (2007-2008) project (photo: Shari Gearheard).

Ongoing Collaborations and Upcoming Projects



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