Auditing an Institutional Data Repository With Respect to the CoreTrustSeal Certification Requirements

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Welcome to VTechData, the data repository for Virginia Tech!

Virginia Tech's Data Repository is a platform for highlighting, preserving, and providing access to the work generated by the Virginia Tech Community.
About VTechData

- VTechData highlights, preserves, and provide access to research products (e.g. datasets) of the Virginia Tech community
- Meeting journal and funder requirements for data sharing/availability
- Open access repository
- Virginia Tech researchers can self-deposit
- Curators suggest dataset/metadata enhancement by depositors, meeting minimum metadata requirements
- 74 published datasets since 2016
Internal Assessment – Why CoreTrustSeal?

- Evaluation process looks at technical, curatorial, and organizational infrastructure
- Lightweight repository certification process (relative to TRAC)
- Gaining in notoriety within research data circles (e.g. Enabling FAIR Data Project)
- Facilitate conversation around Libraries’ digital infrastructure development/support
Assessment Process

- Interviewed Data Services and Information Technology Services personnel within Libraries towards 15 of the 16 CoreTrustSeal requirements
  - Requirement regarding funding and staffing out of scope
- For each CoreTrust Seal requirement authors gave
  - Ratings for VTechData
  - Recommendations for improving VTechData
VTechData does not yet meet the CoreTrustSeal Repository Requirements

Improvements and documentation required towards digital curation, digital preservation, and systems administration

Report available online
Challenge for CoreTrustSeal Audit

- VTechData gives Virginia Tech researchers a way to provide access to their data
- Discipline-agnostic; serve political scientists, aerospace engineers, ecologists...
- As curators we are not in a position to evaluate the quality/reusability of all the data or metadata to which we provide access, now or in the future
  - Data Curation Network may lead to this capability for generalist repositories
Definition of Designated Community

● “the Designated Community of VTechData comprises researchers at Virginia Tech who can deposit and publish their data therein”

● With this definition, 3 of the 16 requirements (8, 11, 14) were deemed not applicable – would this have been alright towards CoreTrustSeal certification?

● Defining Designated Community an active point of discussion
  ○ CoreTrustSeal Review of Requirements
  ○ ‘Access is What we are Preserving’: But for Whom?
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Thanks!
Questions?
## Our Rating Spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Repository has not considered this yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Repository has a theoretical concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3*</td>
<td>The Repository is in the Implementation Phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4*</td>
<td>The guideline has been fully implemented in the Repository</td>
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</tbody>
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OAIS Designated Community definition

- An identified group of potential Consumers who should be able to understand a particular set of information in ways exemplified by the Preservation Objectives. The Designated Community may be composed of multiple user communities. A Designated Community is defined by the Archive and this definition may change over time. (draft OAIS Reference Model v3)