

Managing Access to Restricted Data in Universities: The Johns Hopkins Experience

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JHU Landscape and Restricted Data

- Extremely decentralized university
- Enterprise IT departments unable to provide deeply customized systems and watchdog services.
- Primary data vs. secondary data
- Lots of grant money
- Typically departments and individual projects come up with own solutions for data housing/storage.

Library Restricted Data Room Proposal

- Proposed to Dean of Libraries during call for special funding
- Primarily for graduate student researchers
- Access control methods
- Hardware availability and allowances
- Consulting vs. facilitating

Policies and Procedures

- The whole policy can be viewed here
- Nutshell
 - Researcher responsible for own paperwork.
 - Researcher responsible for own equipment.
 - Must follow specific security requirements. E.g. raw files stay in room.
 - No visitors!
 - Keep your ID card with you.



Funding and Maintenance

- All initial funding to build the room and equipment came from the Dean of the Sheridan Libraries.
- One library IT technician and I serve as computing admins.
- Sheridan Libraries support services manages card swipe access.

In Sum....

The Good

- Graduate students with no secure space now have space.
- Serves as education/training in how to properly access and use restricted data.
- Gets people thinking that data is just another form of information, so the library is a logical place for help.

The Not So Good

- Needing specialized - aka expensive - software (e.g Mplus or MATLAB).
- Limited size of room.
- As a consultant rather than facilitator not always knowing when something should have been done.
- Other assumptions...

Where we *hope* to be

- This is a starting rather than stopping point.
- To go larger, we would need more staff.
- Potential partnering across library IT for server development (even that is decentralized).
- Potential support from particular schools (e.g JHU Bloomberg School of Public Health).
- Stay tuned....