To address the need for libraries to be engaged in developing e-research and research data management services, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) and the Digital Library Federation (DLF) have established the DLF E-Research Network: a peer-driven community of practice focused on sharing information on implementing research data management services while also facilitating participant-driven learning and shared skill development.

Institutional teams from eight academic libraries in the United States and Canada participated in the DLF E-Research Network for its launch in 2014. Through a series of in-person meetings, webinars, practical activities, and virtual discussions, these institutions were able to evaluate, refine, and further implement research data services. Through these connections, the program aims to build and encourage a self-reliant, mutually supportive community engaged in continuous learning about e-research support.

Participation in the E-Research Network provides members working in research libraries and data centers the opportunity to develop research data management strategies, policies, tools, and services while also building collaborative partnerships across cohorts.

Between April and October, Network members participate in customized curricula and a series of regularly scheduled webcasts, and are also offered consultations tailored to a specific institutional need. In conjunction with the annual DLF Forum, an in-person meeting takes place as the culminating event for the Network cohort. This meeting gives participants the opportunity to share learning experiences and build collaborative partnerships moving forward.

E-Research Network participants are engaged as community members throughout the learning experience and maintain contact as new annual cohorts are formed. CLIR/DLF’s organizational resources support the community of practice that emerges as a result of the networking group.

Members of previous cohorts, alongside CLIR/DLF Postdoctoral Fellows in Data Curation, facilitate the group experience. They work with participants to assess each institution’s existing service layers, and identify next steps for planning and implementing research data management services.

To learn more about how your institution can be a part of the DLF E-Research Network please visit: [http://www.diglib.org/groups/e-research-network/](http://www.diglib.org/groups/e-research-network/)

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