

# The Data Services Continuing Professional Education (DSCPE) Program: Creating Communities of Practice for Data Services Librarianship

Sara Hoover  
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University



## Background

Federal mandates such as the 2023 NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy (NOT-OD-21-013) and the 2022 OSTP Public Access Memo have created a heightened need for research data management services offered by academic libraries. Based on these policies, medical librarians are likely to see an uptick in researcher questions about compliance, creating data management plans, and locating appropriate data repositories. For many librarians, the ability to fully engage with data management related questions will require additional training<sup>1</sup>. In the fall of 2022, the Data Services Continuing Professional Education (DSCPE) program sought to address this need via an eight-week intensive online learning experience. A librarian from Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library at The George Washington University participated in this program to help grow institutional Research Data Management (RDM) services.

## The Data Services Continuing Education Program (DSCPE):

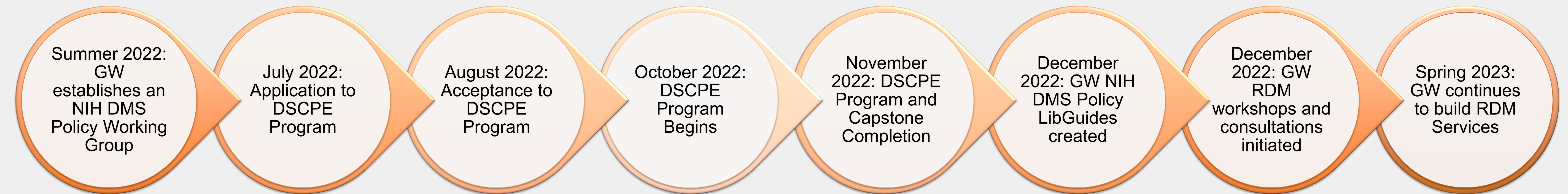
The Data Services Continuing Professional Education (DSCPE)<sup>2</sup> program was developed by members of the Harvard Medical School's Countway Library and the Simmons University School of Library and Information Science with the aim of addressing a known skill gap among librarians.

The DSCPE pilot program was an eight-week course that ran from early October 2022 through the end of November 2022. Early and mid-career librarians needing to learn more about the RDM ecosystem applied for the program during the summer of 2022 and the first cohort consisted of fifteen librarians from both medical and non-medical libraries around the United States. Funding for the Fall 2022 cohort tuition was provided by a gift from Elsevier. Program participants gained experience with RDM through structured instruction, independent learning, and a seventy-hour paired capstone project with a mentor site. This program ultimately played a valuable role in helping to build communities of practice for data librarianship.

## DSCPE Program Structure:

- Week 1: Program Orientation; Collaboration & Leadership Sessions; Director's Panel
- Week 2: RDMLA Units 1-3; Unit Instructor Lectures; Initial meeting with Capstone site
- Week 3: RDMLA Units 4-6; Unit Instructor Lectures; Capstone participation
- Week 4: RDMLA Units 7 & 8; Unit Instructor Lectures; Capstone participation
- Weeks 5-7: Capstone participation; Program Mid-Point check-in with Program Directors
- Week 8: Final Capstone Presentations & Program Debrief

## DSCPE and Research Data Management (RDM) Services at GW:



## Data Services Continuing Education Program in Action:

The screenshot shows the DSCPE website with a navigation bar (About, Capstone Partners, Cohort Members, Contact, Pilot Program, Team) and a main header for 'NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy: Overview and Resources' by the GW NIH DMS Policy Working Group. Below the header, there's a section for 'Data Services Continuing Professional Education' and a 'DSCPE Data Services Continuing Professional Education' logo. The main content area features a 'NIH Data Management & Sharing Plan (DMSP) Research Guide' with a search bar and a list of topics: 'What is new in the 2023 NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy?', 'What does NIH expect from investigators and institutions under the DMSP policy?', and 'How can I determine if my research is subject to the DMSP policy?'. A table titled 'NIH-supported Scientific Data Repositories\*' is also visible, with columns for 'Institute or Center', 'Repository Name', 'Repository Description', 'Open Data Submission', 'Data Submission Policy', 'Open Time Frame for Data Deposit', and 'Access, Distribution, or Reuse Considerations'.

## George Washington University (GW) & DSCPE:

During the summer of 2022 administrators at The George Washington University recognized the need to help support compliance with the forthcoming 2023 NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. Staffing turnover led to a knowledge gap in academic libraries related to research data management services.

In late summer 2022 Sara Hoover, Metadata and Scholarly Publishing Librarian at the Himmelfarb Health Sciences applied and was accepted into the Data Services Continuing Professional Education (DSCPE) program with the aim of supporting the work of the GW NIH DMS Policy working group. For the capstone portion of this program, she worked with Dr. Lisa Federer, Acting Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the National Library of Medicine on a project related to revising NLM's list of domain-specific data repositories. Based on learning via the DSCPE program and capstone project, the Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library at GW was able to provide RDM service support to students, faculty, and staff through the creation of an NIH DMSP Policy LibGuide<sup>3</sup>, NIH DMS Policy training sessions, and DMS plan consultation sessions.

## DCSCPE Program Highlights

- Program activities such as a library director's panel and a supported RDMLA curriculum gave students insights into the work being done by other institutions
- The DSCPE capstone allowed students to gained increased familiarity with RDM services outside their own organization
- DSCPE provides an effective model for continued training for academic librarians

## Next Steps for RDM Services at GW

- Continued engagement with communities and organizations providing RDM related training and support including the Research Data Access and Preservation Association (RDAP), the MLA Data Special Interest Group (MLDSIG), the NNLM Datalibs Listserv, the NIH Office of Data Science Strategy, and others
- Continued growth of local DMS plan consultation support
- Continued educational outreach and resource development related to institutional RDM services
- Continued work with other institutional RDM stakeholders (Office of Research, other campus libraries, departments, etc.)

## References

1. Tang, & Hu, Z. (2019). Providing Research Data Management (RDM) Services in Libraries: Preparedness, Roles, Challenges, and Training for RDM Practice. *Data and Information Management*, 3(2), 84–101. <https://doi.org/10.2478/dim-2019-0009>
2. *Data Services Continuing Professional Education*. <https://dscpe.github.io/>
3. *NIH Data Management & Sharing Plan (DMSP) Research Guide*. Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library. <https://guides.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/NIHDMSPolicy>