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

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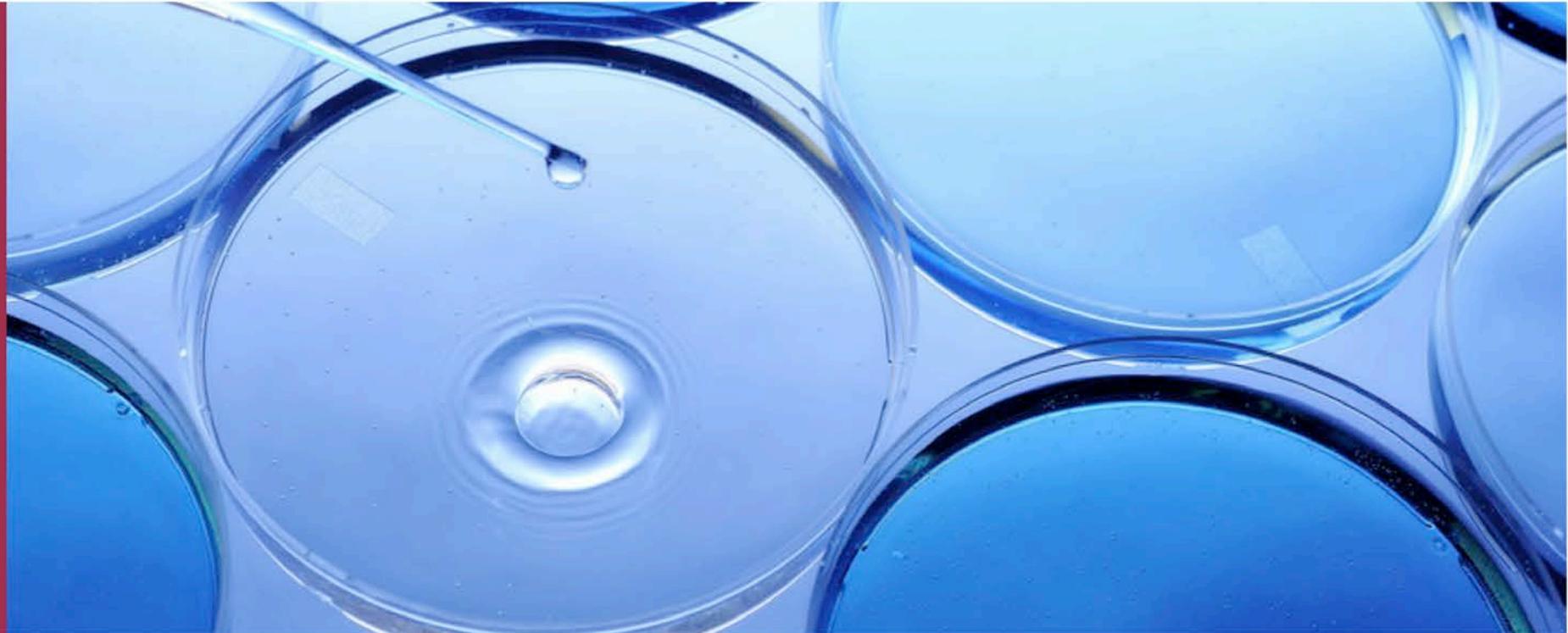Graduate Assistant

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VIRGINIA TECH.

VTechData

Welcome to VTechData, the data repository for Virginia Tech!

Search for data in VTechData...   🔍   All ▾

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

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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**

Report Completed February 2019

- **VTechData does not yet meet the CoreTrustSeal Repository Requirements**
- **Improvements and <u>documentation</u> required towards digital curation, digital preservation, and systems administration**
- **<u>Report available online</u>**

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

Rating	Description
0	Not Applicable
1	The Repository has not considered this yet
2	The Repository has a theoretical concept
3*	The Repository is in the Implementation Phase
4*	The guideline has been fully implemented in the Repository

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- Defining Designated Community an active point of discussion
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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**)