

## The Portage Network

<https://portagenetwork.ca/>

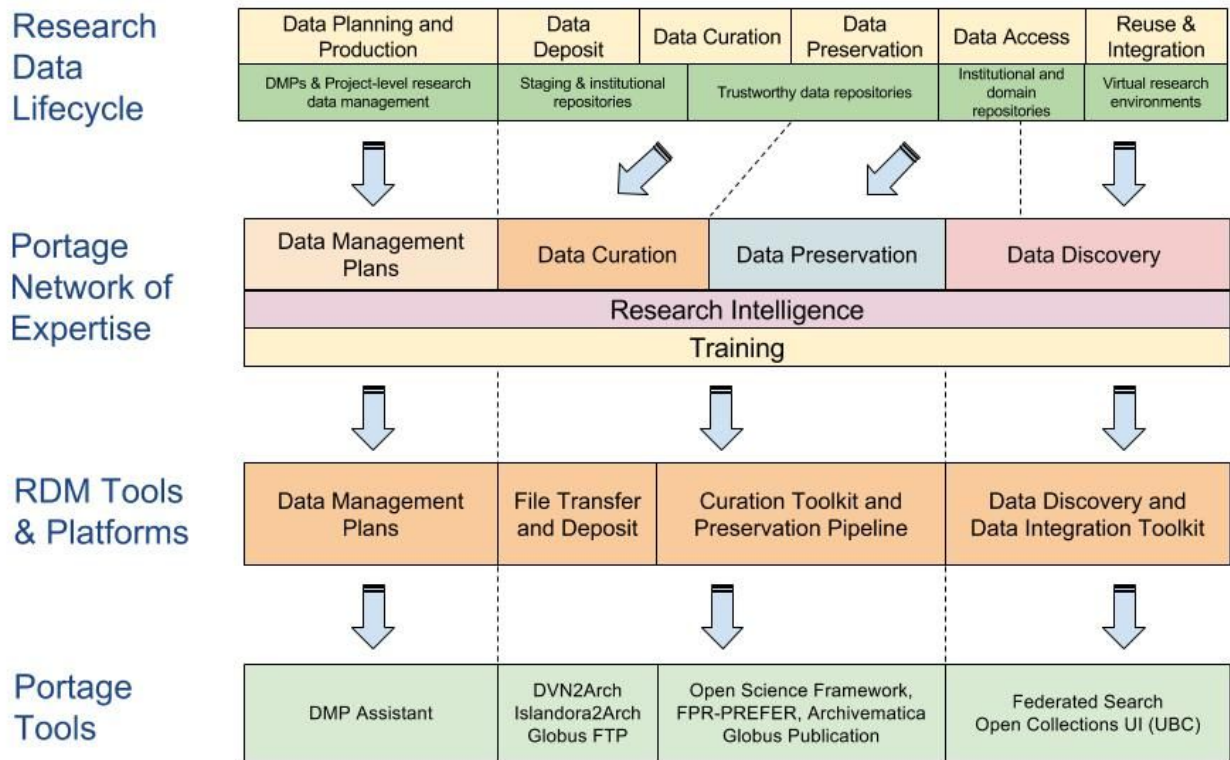
The Canadian Association of Research Libraries established Portage in May 2015 to support researchers and institutions with the management, protection, dissemination, and archiving of their research data. The need for such assistance in Canada has become a national challenge. The very nature of increasingly large volumes of digital research data -- in volatile formats and widely diverse forms -- stretches the management capacity of any single institution and begs for a nationally collaborative, shared stewardship of research data. With this objective in mind, the library community is bringing its trusted history of curating research collections to digital research data.

Portage is a community-based organization that brings together experts with complementary skills in an active network to address issues across a spectrum of institutions. Through its Network of Expertise, Portage offers support to libraries and researchers by providing advice and materials on the best practices for managing data and by presenting options regarding the long-term security and access to research data. Six expert groups have been formed that cover general stages of the data lifecycle or that underpin activities across this full lifecycle. This includes groups on data management plans, data curation, data preservation, data discovery, research data management training, and research intelligence about data management in Canada. Currently, there are 27 librarians from 16 CARL member institutions participating in these groups. This distributed aspect of Portage requires close working relationships with Canada's four regional library consortia and their lead institutions in research data management.

Portage also collaborates with infrastructure providers to make research data management platforms available to the research community. For example, Portage launched DMP Assistant in October 2015: a bilingual, free Web service for researchers to prepare, share, and publish data management plans. The University of Alberta is hosting this platform on behalf of the Portage Network. A partnership also exists between CARL and Compute Canada to develop a federated research data repository with enhanced preservation processing. Furthermore, the UBC open collections user interface is being integrated into this repository project to support data discovery. Another collaboration is with Scholars Portal and their development of middleware between Dataverse and Archivematica to exchange data and metadata. This approach to research data management infrastructure is based on a federated model that incorporates a variety of platforms maintained institutionally and regionally to support researchers across Canada.

Figure 1 shows the Portage Research Data Management Framework, connecting stages of the data lifecycle to expert groups and platforms supporting the stewardship of research data.

Figure 1: Portage Network Research Data Management Framework



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