**Focus Group Outline on Data Management /Curation (29 Jan. 2013)**

**Brief Introduction** (Hannah):

There has been increasing attention both inside and outside the university in data management and curation. Our group is a collaboration between the libraries, research computing, and the office of research, and we’re interested in finding out more about how people are dealing with their research data across campus with the goal of finding areas where you need support and where one or more of our units can provide help. In order to do that, we’re working on a survey to go out across campus and we’re talking to groups of grad students like yourselves to find out what you’re doing now in terms of organization, storage, and sharing of research data. We envision this as being a pretty informal conversation, but will be audio-recording it to be sure we really capture what it is you have to say – we won’t share the recording with anyone outside our group and won’t report any of the information in it in a way that would identify you individually.

**Questions** (switch off between Dave and Hannah)

1. First, for our purposes, we’d like to get a sense of what research each of you do here, or what you’re planning to do.

Potential follow-up questions:

* + What research question are you trying to answer?
  + What process/methods do you use to answer it?

1. Are there any issues that have come up in your work related to your research data?

Potential follow-up questions:

* + Are there things that work well, or don’t? Can you think of any examples?
* Have you had any issues related to storing or backing up your data?
* Have you had any issues related to organizing your files or documenting your data?
* Do you have a data management plan in your lab?
* How do you share data with others in your lab or others you’re collaborating with?
* Scenario….

1. What would make data management easier for you?

Potential follow-up questions:

* + What could we do? Are there ways we could assist with your work?
  + Is there more you would want to learn about data management?
  + Scenario…

1. To finish up, is there anything else you can tell us about the processes involved in dealing with your research data? Is there anything else we need to know about the workflows involved in your research to better understand how the data fits in?

Potential follow-up questions:

* [To get a sense of their culture surrounding data exchange]: Have you been asked to provide or share your data with others outside of your immediate collaborators? Do you request data from others? How commonly?
* Does your data need to be preserved? For how long? Does all of it need to be kept?

**Conclusion** (Dave?)

***Overall: We’re trying not to be too directive***