

Cornell Data Services May 2026 Newsletter

Comprehensive Data Planning & Services

[Cornell Data Services](#) is a collaborative, campus-wide organization that assists with data management and sharing plans, applying best practices for managing data, and finding data-related services at any stage of the research process.

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Spotlight: Checklist for Reusable Code

Reusable code is **well-documented, human-readable, portable, organized, and version-controlled**. Creating reusable code helps *you*, your collaborators, and the broader open science community by making your work easier to understand, adapt, reproduce, and cite. If you would like support, connect with a member of Cornell Data Services at data-help@cornell.edu for a consultation!

Download and use this quick [checklist](#) for a fast self-check when sharing code for your project.

Webinars | Training | Conferences

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Support

Cornell University Library provides a variety of GIS support services for Cornell students, staff, and faculty. We can help you find and use data, troubleshoot GIS software such as QGIS and ArcGIS, plan a geospatial analysis, or refer you to other GIS experts on campus. Learn more and request an appointment on the library GIS guide or email questions to geospatial-help@cornell.edu.

AI Resources for Qualitative Research

The Qualitative and Interpretive Research Institute (QuIRI) in the Cornell Center for Social Sciences has developed a resource hub to help researchers assess whether, when, which, and how to use AI tools in qualitative research. Check out QuIRI's [AI Resources for Qualitative Research](#) repository for recorded sessions and ongoing tutorials on AI use in qualitative research.

Non-Cornell

ORCID 101: The ORCID iD and Record

June 9, 3PM ET/2PM CT/1PM MT/12PM PT

Getting and using your free ORCID iD and ORCID record can help you save time and get credit for your work in funding, publishing, and research reporting workflows. Funding organizations, publishers, and research institutions are increasingly requiring or asking for ORCID iDs from researchers, so this workshop will help you make sure you are ahead of the game.

In this workshop, we will cover:

- An overview of the benefits of ORCID for researchers
- How ORCID can help you save time throughout the research landscape
- Tips and tricks for keeping your ORCID record up-to-date

No prior experience with ORCID necessary. The session recording will be sent to all who register.

[REGISTER to Attend](#)

Funder and Publisher News

NIH new 2026 Pilot DMS Plan format available

NIH's new Data Management Sharing (DMS) Plan format is available for [download](#). The new format is based on a simplified set of required elements for [Data Management and Sharing \(DMS\) Plans](#) and is required for due dates on or after May 25.

- Additional guidance is available at [Writing a Data Management and Sharing Plan](#).
- Contact data-help@cornell.edu for DMSP review or consultation.

Roper Center: prepared to preserve

Private and public foundations increasingly require that data collected under funding agreements be archived for long-term preservation. The Roper Center is the ideal place to archive your public opinion and sentiment data. Write the Roper Center into your grant proposal, [contact the Roper Center](#) for more details.

Roper/CCSS Data Conversion Grant

Rolling Deadline

The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research holds hundreds of rare historical public opinion datasets from around the world that can provide exclusive insights and historical context that would otherwise be lost to time. Cornell faculty and graduate students can apply for up to \$10K in grant funding from Roper Center and CCSS to convert datasets in obsolete file formats (e.g., column binary or ASCII) into modern formats.

[Apply for Roper/CCSS Data Conversion Grant](#)

Data in the News

Featured in: Sonar on stock smartwatches leads to hand-tracking breakthrough (Cornell Chronicle)

"In the future, with this kind of hand-tracking technology, we might be able to track our typing with just our smartwatch," said Chi-Jung Lee, a doctoral student in the field of information science in the Cornell Ann S.

Bower College of Computing and Information Science...“Our hands can act as an input device with computers,” she said.

Along with gesture-based device interaction, WatchHand’s direct application could support assistive technologies for users with limited mobility or speech and be used as a controller in augmented reality and virtual reality environments, researchers said. – [Cornell Chronicle](#)

- **Related [curated dataset](#):** Jiwan Kim, Chi-Jung Lee, Hohurn Jung, Tianhong Yu, Ruidong Zhang, Ian Oakley, Cheng Zhang. (2026) Data from: WatchHand: Enabling Continuous Hand Pose Tracking On Off-the-Shelf Smartwatches [Data set] Cornell University Library eCommons Repository. <https://doi.org/10.7298/qf1v-j805>
- **Related article:** Kim, J., Lee, C.-J., Jung, H., Catherine Yu, T., Zhang, R., Oakley, I., & Zhang, C. (2026). WatchHand: Enabling Continuous Hand Pose Tracking On Off-the-Shelf Smartwatches. Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3790932>

Featured in: Are plants intelligent? It depends on the definition (Cornell Chronicle)

Goldenrod can perceive other plants nearby without ever touching them, by sensing far-red light ratios reflected off leaves. When goldenrod is eaten by herbivores, it adapts its response based on whether or not another plant is nearby.

Is this kind of flexible, real-time, adaptive response a sign of intelligence in plants?...

“There are more than 70 definitions that are published for intelligence and there is no agreement on what it is, even within a given field,” said [\[Andre\] Kessler](#), professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. – [Cornell Chronicle](#)

- **Related [curated dataset](#):** Kessler, A., & Poveda, K. (2026) Data from: Inducible Defenses, Chemical Aposematism, and the Spatial Ecology of Plant- 2 Herbivore Interactions in Tall Goldenrod, Solidago altissima L. [Dataset] Cornell University Library eCommons Repository. <https://doi.org/10.7298/jswk-z161>
- **Related article:** Kessler, A., & Poveda, K. (2026). Inducible defences, chemical aposematism and the spatial ecology of plant–herbivore interactions in tall goldenrod, Solidago altissima L. Functional Ecology, 00, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2435.70338>

In Case You Missed It

NSF DMSP Requirement Update

Reflecting changes announced in the [2026 PAPPG 24-1 Supplement 2](#), effective **April 27, 2026**, the Data Management and Sharing Plan format for NSF proposals changed from a PDF document to a webform within the Research.gov site. [Learn more](#).

If you have questions or would like someone to review your DMSP, please reach out to data-help@cornell.edu.

More NSF news

All 22 members of the [National Science Board](#), which oversees the National Science Foundation, were [fired](#) on April 24.

Thought Summits to explore AI and Data Science frontiers

Cornell University selected three [Thought Summits for 2026](#), advancing collaboration in artificial intelligence and data science across disciplines ranging from veterinary medicine and environmental justice to humanitarian response. Two more remain:

- **Community-Centered AI: Methodological Innovations for Environmental Justice, Labor Equity, and Data Sovereignty**
May 18–20, 2026 | Location: Computing and Information Science Building, Room 142
- **From Data to Animal Health: Building Benchmarks for AI-Driven Veterinary Innovation**
June 9–11, 2026 | Location: College of Veterinary Medicine

Schedule a Consultation

CDS [consultants](#) are available year-round to answer questions and help with data-related problems. We can meet via Zoom, email, or phone.

Send a request to data-help@cornell.edu to arrange a consultation at a time that works for you.

Has this newsletter been helpful?

Tell us about it using this [feedback form](#) and we'll send you a **Cornell Data Services** goody bag!



<https://data.research.cornell.edu>

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Join or leave this list: <https://data.research.cornell.edu/contact-us/>