

Why DMPs Fail to Engage Researchers and How to Fix That

Integrating research data management and project management skills

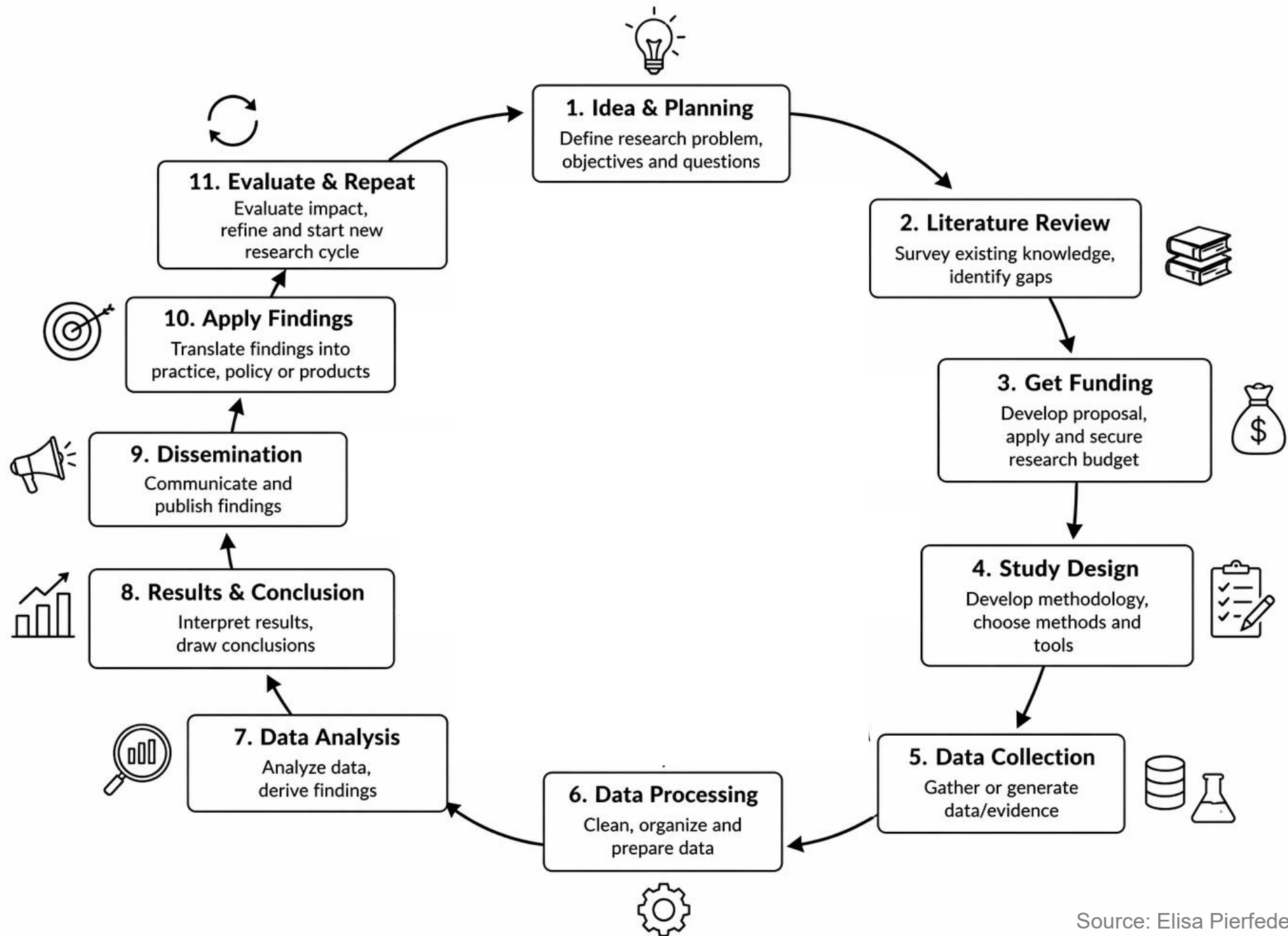
Elisa Pierfederici

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DSC
Digital Scholarship Centre
at the University of Oslo Library



**UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO**

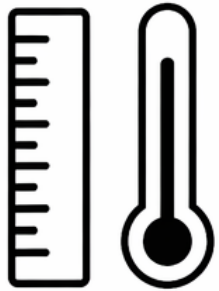


“Research Data”

“Representations of observations, objects, or other materials used as evidence or foundational material in research.”

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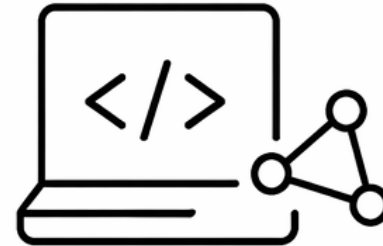
Measurements /
Structured Datasets



Interviews /
Texts



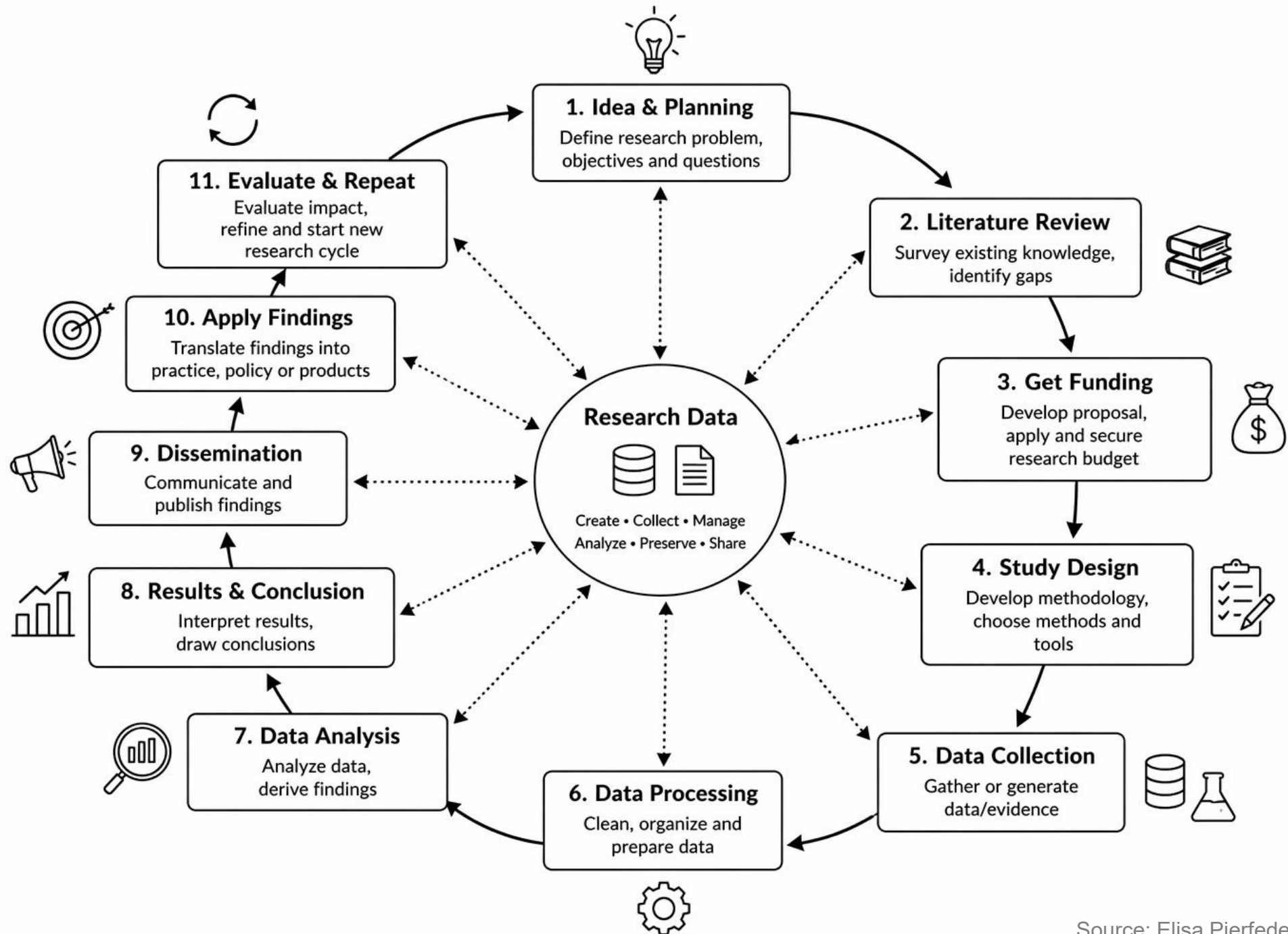
Archival
Sources



Code /
Models



Structured Assumptions /
Derived Material



What happens when this material
is not handled well?

If data is poorly structured or insufficiently documented, results become difficult to reproduce.

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If workflows are unclear, analysis cannot be properly verified.

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If the link between material and interpretation is weak, the credibility of conclusions is reduced.

Good data practices = research integrity

Research Data Management (RDM)

Set of practices used to organize, document, store, and share research data across its lifecycle.

**RDM across
the lifecycle**



Plan



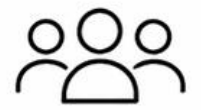
Collect



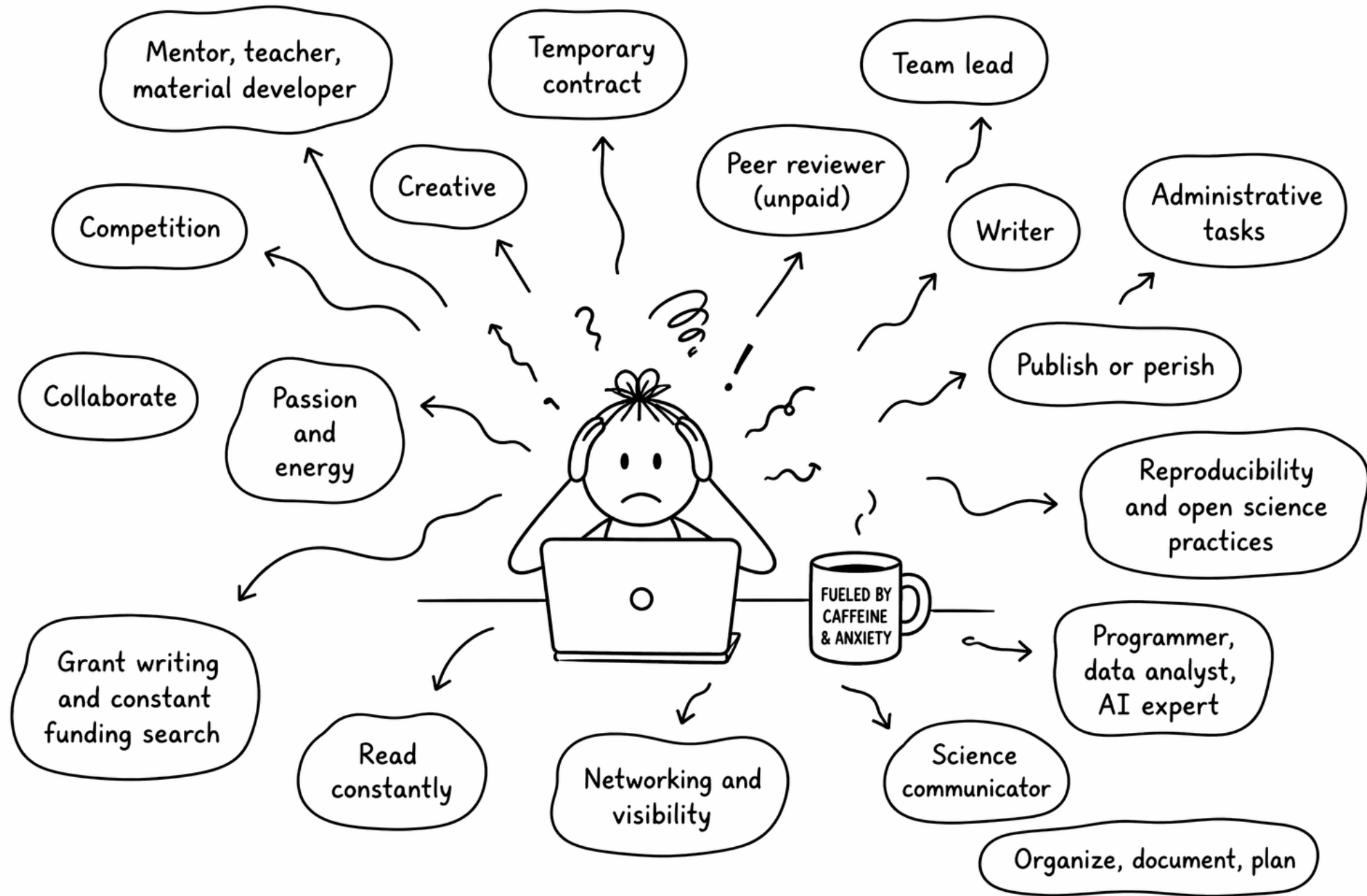
Organize & Document



Store & Preserve



Share & Reuse



Norway and Research Data Management

Significant effort has been invested in supporting research data management through coordination, services, and alignment with funders requirements

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National coordination

National initiatives and coordination support consistent RDM practices.



Shared services

Shared infrastructure and services make it easier to store, manage and share research data.



Aligned with funder requirements

Alignment with the Research Council of Norway and European frameworks ensures compliance and best practice.



Active role of institutions and libraries

Universities and especially library services provide guidance, tools and training for researchers.

The Gap

ACTIONS AT SPECIFIC MOMENTS



START

DMP
(e.g., Data
Management
Plan)

⋮



END

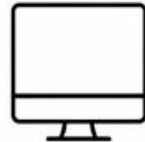
Archiving
(e.g., data
preservation
and deposit)

SUPPORT ACROSS DIFFERENT UNITS



LIBRARY

Guidance on
data management
and stewardship



IT

Infrastructure,
storage, security,
and tools



ADMINISTRATION

Policies, compliance,
funding, and
oversight

Distributed support
with different roles
and responsibilities

REQUIREMENTS PERCEIVED AS EXTERNAL



- Policies and mandates
- Compliance obligations
- Funders' requirements
- Standards and guidelines

**PERCEIVED AS OUTSIDE
THE RESEARCH PROCESS**

RDM is not always experienced as part of how research is carried out

The issue we are discussing is not the absence of RDM,
It is how these practices are **structured, experienced,
and integrated into research work.**

University of Oslo experience

Introduction to research data management

What is research data management and why is it increasingly important?

Time and place: Apr. 28, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, Zoom

Course presentation

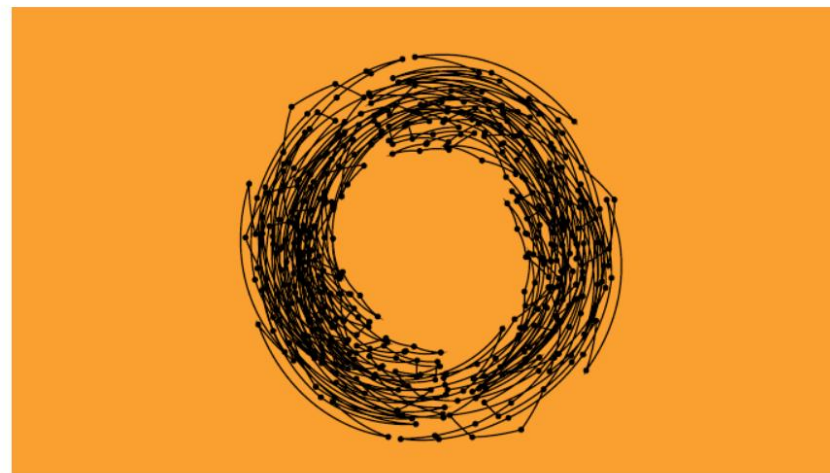
Good research data management is increasingly important for researchers from all disciplines. But what exactly is research data management? And how can researchers benefit from implementing good data management practices as well as comply with the requirements from funders and institutions?

In this 90-minute course we will introduce the concept of research data management, and discuss the importance of good data management in the context of open science practices and FAIR principles. We will present UiO's policy for research data management as well as the funder policies and requirements from the Research Council of Norway and European Union.

Sharing and archiving research data

Are you keen on sharing your research data? Or does your publisher or funder require that your dataset is available?

Time and place: May 20, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, Zoom details TBA



University of Oslo experience



Time and place: Apr. 26, 2023 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, Zoom

Sharing and archiving research data

Are you keen on sharing your research data? Or does your publisher or funder require that your dataset is available?



Time and place: Apr. 24, 2023 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM, [Georg Sverdrups hus: DSC-Oasen](#)

Workshop on Data Management Plans

Join us for this practical and interactive workshop on writing data management plans (DMPs) and learn how to create a DMP for your research project!

The logo for Data Management Week 2026 Spring Edition is set against a solid blue background. It features a stylized orange icon on the left consisting of a server rack with three horizontal bars and a bracket connecting it to three stacked folder icons. To the right of the icon, the words "Data", "Management", and "Week" are stacked vertically in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The year "2026" is positioned to the right of "Week" in a larger, bold, white font. Below "2026", the words "Spring Edition" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Data Management Week 2026

Spring Edition

Monday	<i>Morning:</i> <u>Plan Your Research Data Management (Module 1)</u> <i>Afternoon:</i> <u>Introduction to Large Language Models (ChatGPT and NotebookLM)</u>
Tuesday	<i>Morning:</i> <u>Share, Archive, and Reuse Research Data (Module 2)</u>
Wednesday	<i>All day:</i> <u>Carpentry@UiO Workshop: Databases and SQL</u>
Thursday	<i>Morning:</i> <u>UiO Data Managers Network</u> meeting placeholder <i>Afternoon:</i> <u>ReproducibiliTea@UiO - Hands-on ReproHack: Learn how to reproduce research studies</u>
Friday	<i>Morning:</i> <u>Create a Data Management Plan with FAIR Wizard Norway</u>

Project management in academia

This course is targeted on early career researchers such as PhD candidates and postdocs. It will give you an overview of fundamental project management principles and learn how to apply these to academic research settings. Participant will also learn how to utilize this knowledge into transferable skills.

Time and place: Mar. 16, 2026 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Helga Engs hus: seminarrom 241

Course material →

Introduction

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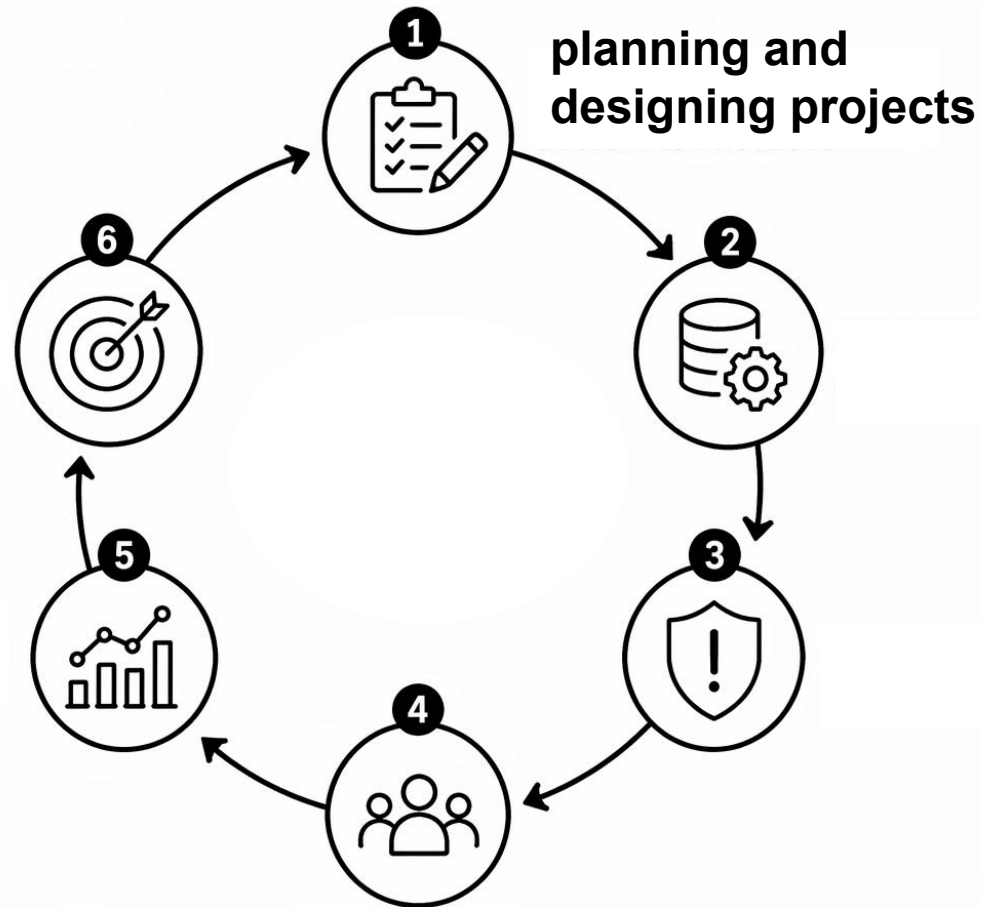
Target Audience

This course is primarily targeted on early career researchers such as PhD candidates and postdocs. Administrative and/or scientific personnel might also benefit from this course, especially research advisors.

Not all researchers think of themselves as working with research data, but all researchers know they are working on a **project**

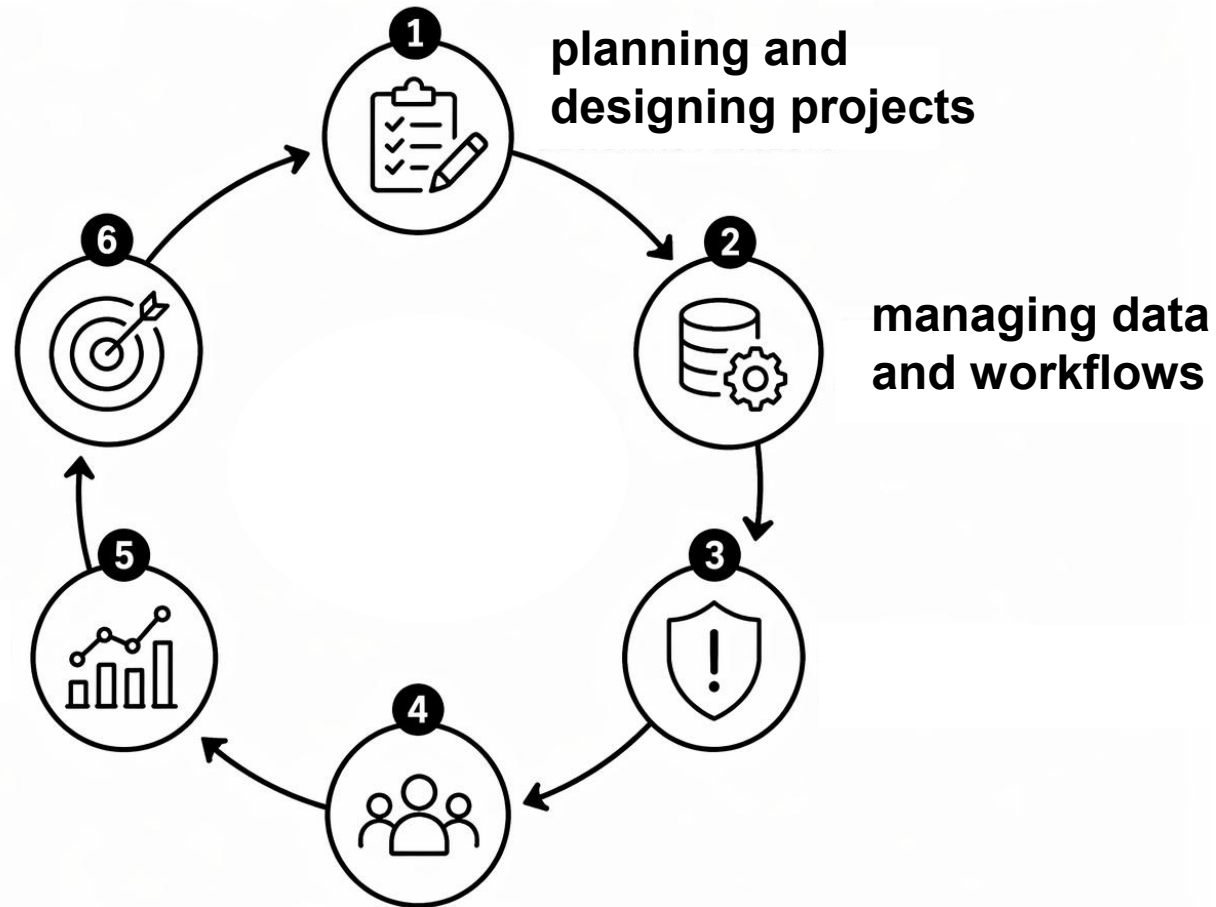
Proposal: Research Project Management Course

A structured, module-based course to support researchers in learning how to do and lead research



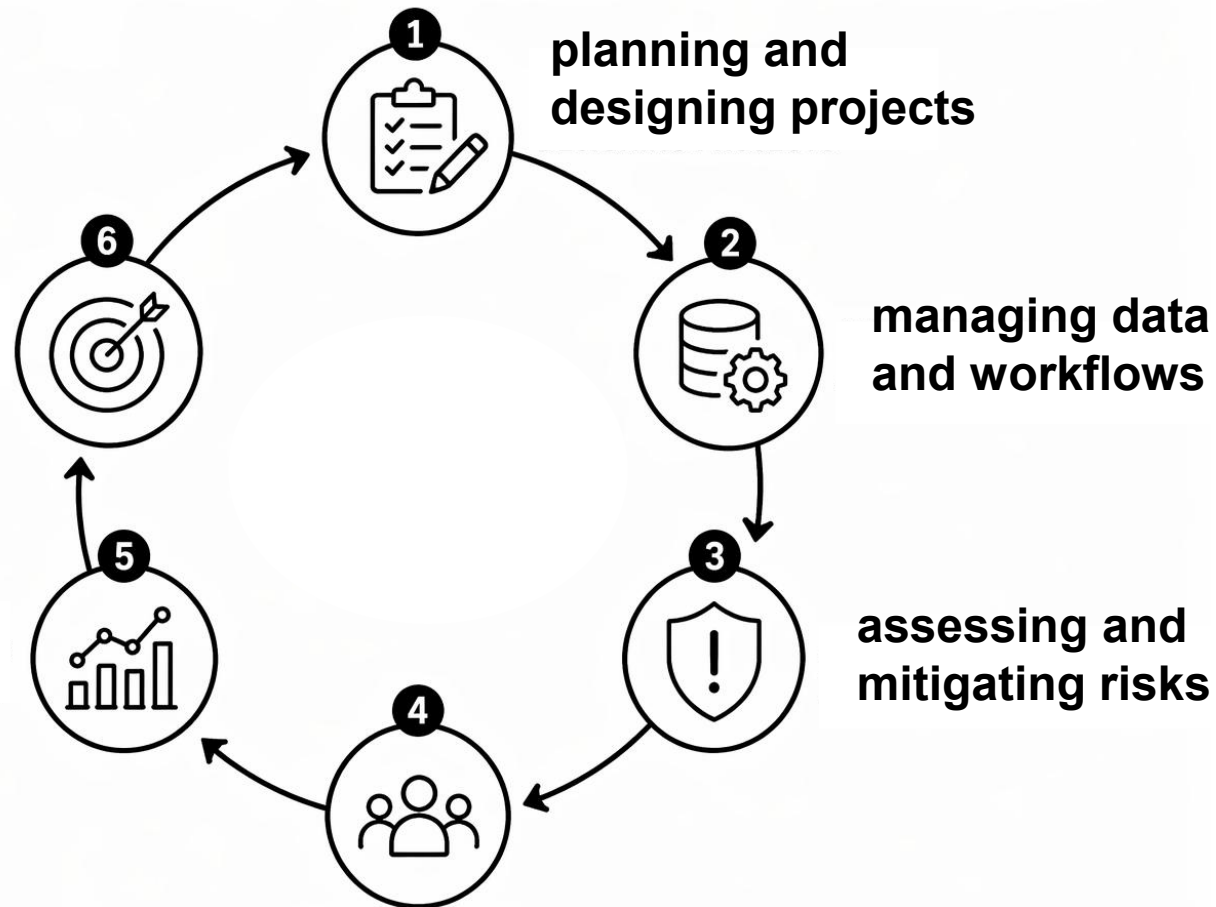
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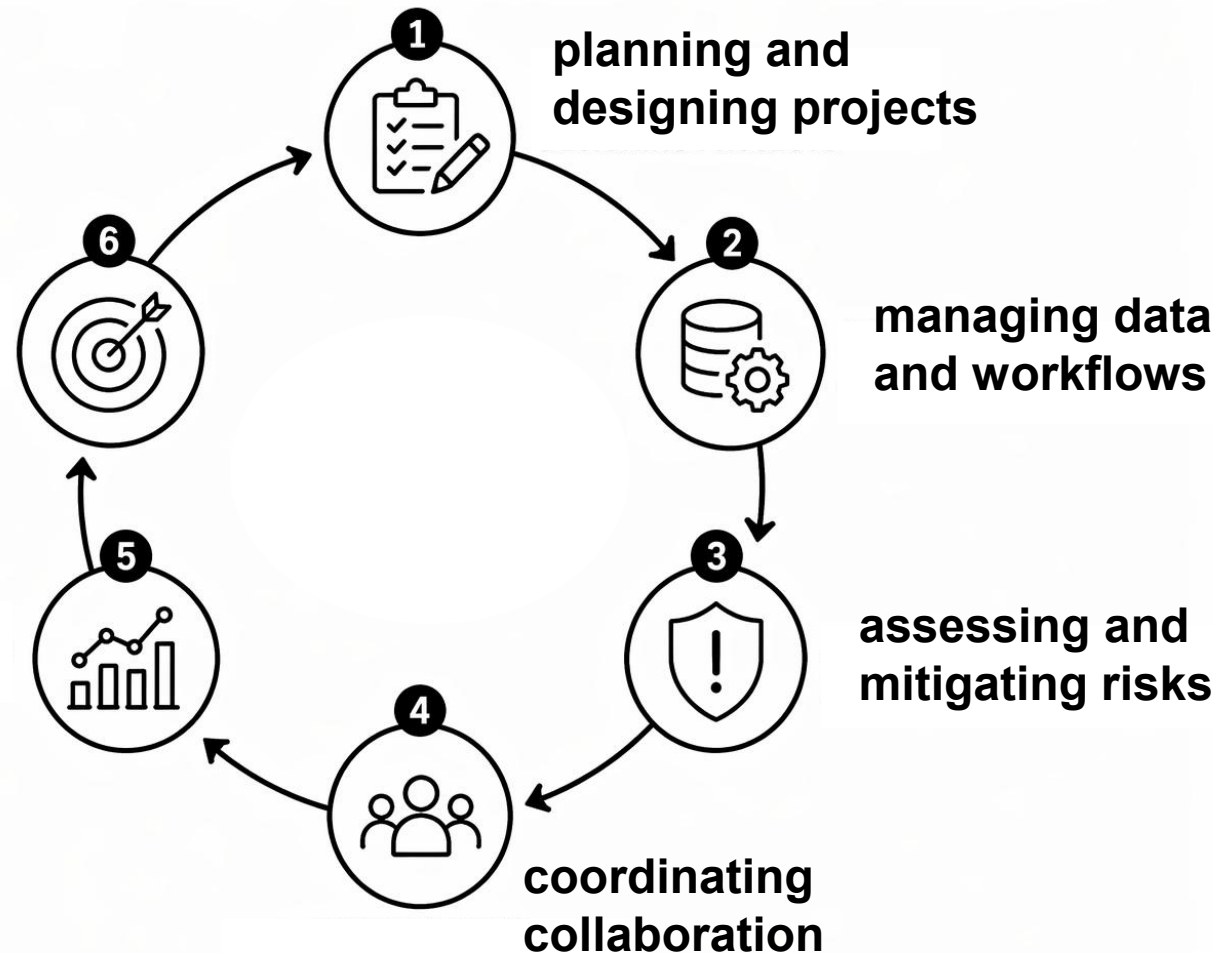
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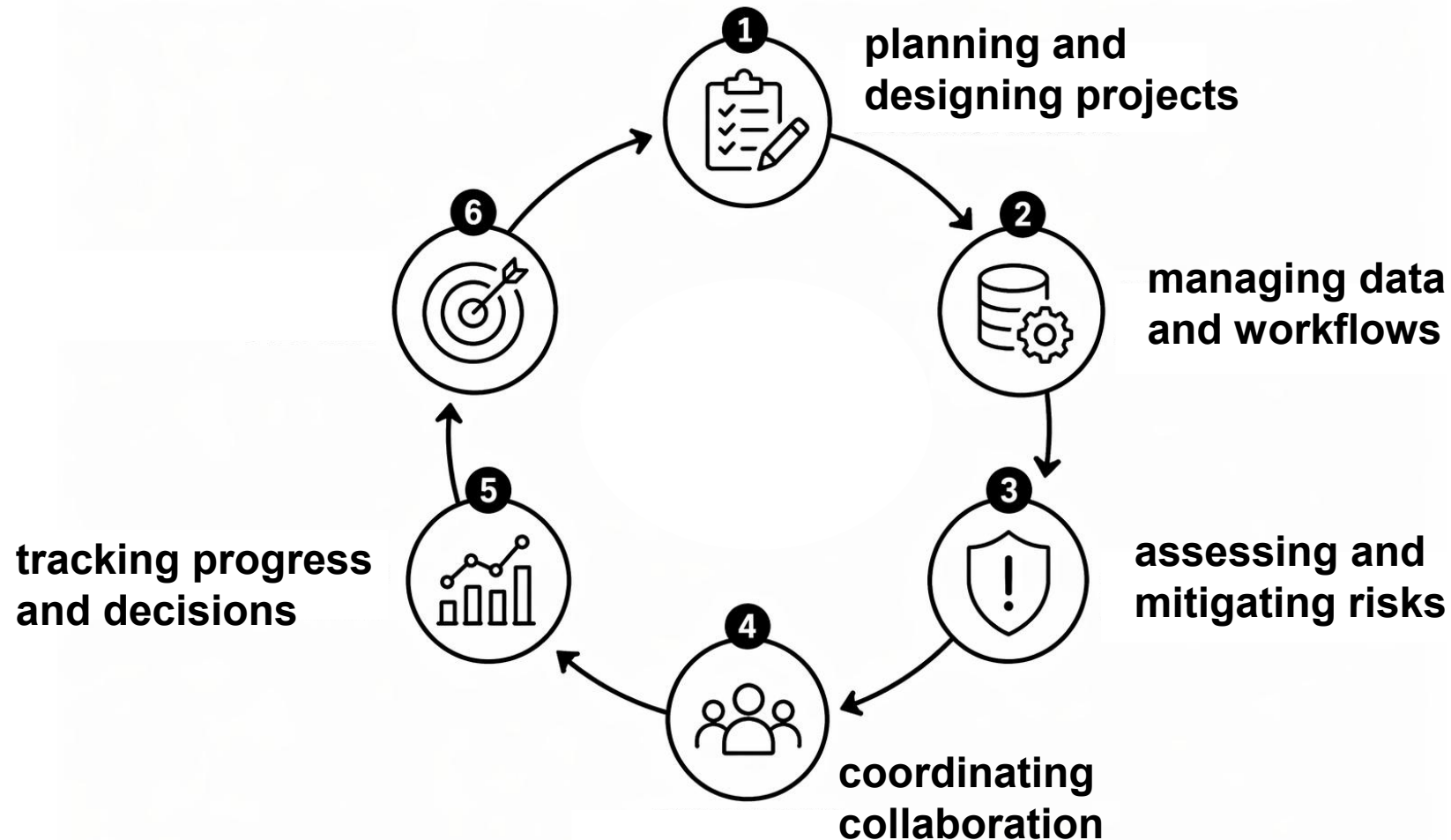
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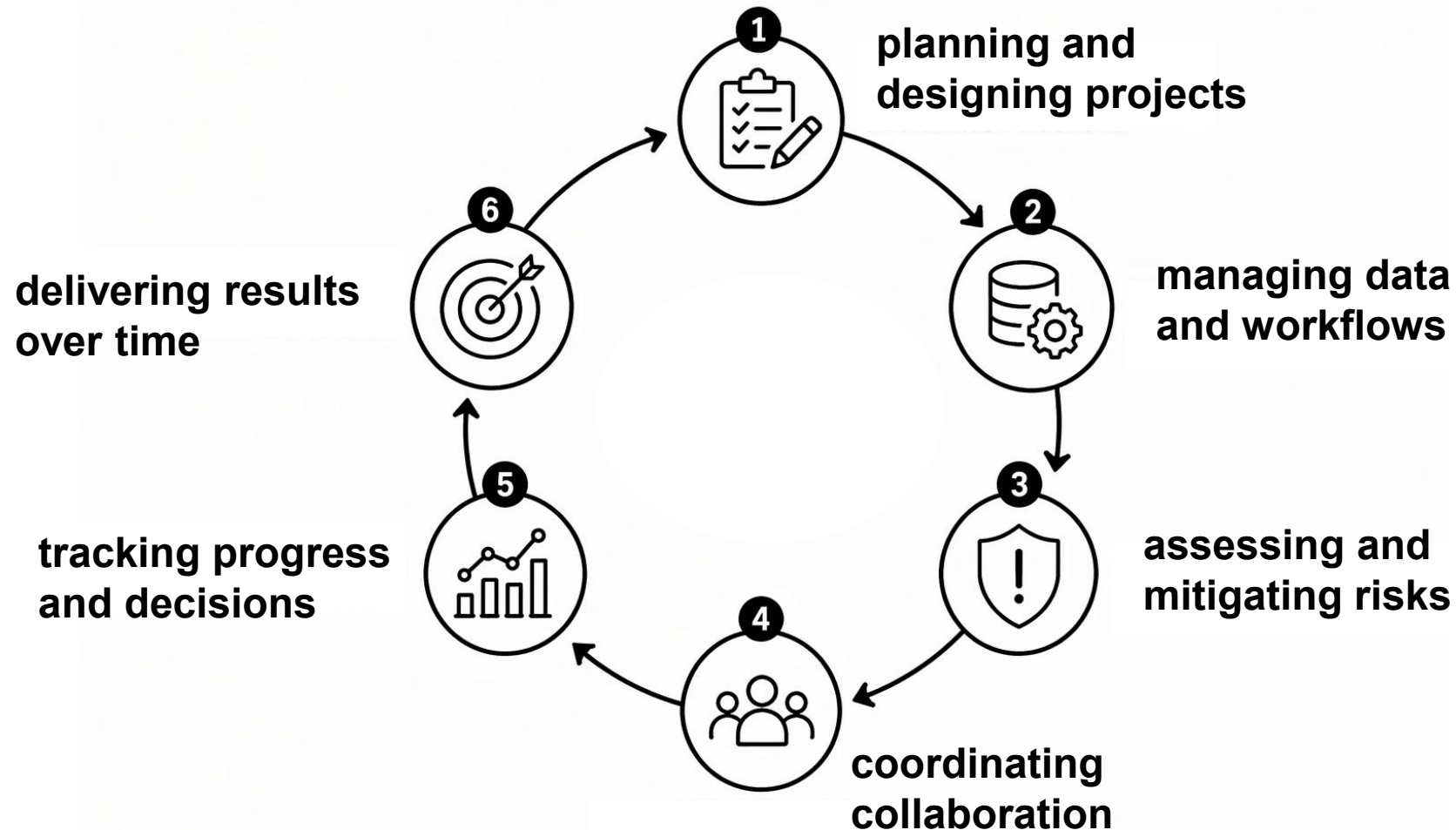
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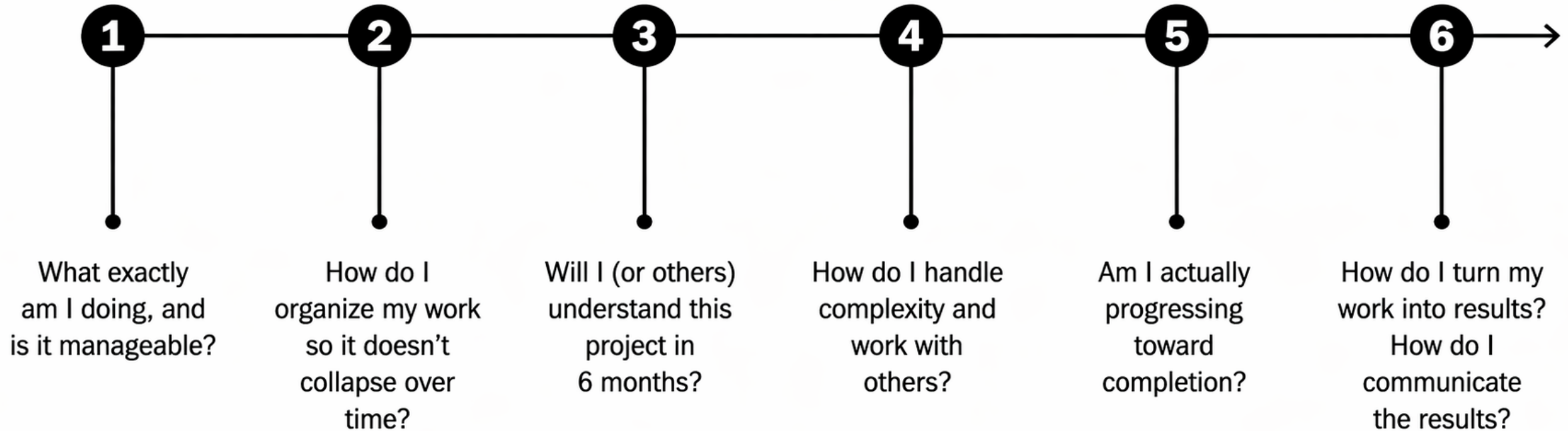


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Proposal: Research Project Management Course



Module 1

What exactly am I doing, and is it manageable?

- Clarifying scope and research design
- Defining what counts as research data/material
- Identifying constraints (ethical, legal, practical)
- Risk assessment
- Introduction to DMP as planning tool

Module 2

How do I organize my work so it doesn't collapse over time?

- File and folder structures
- Taking notes
- Naming conventions
- Storage and backup
- Tool choices (basic level)
- Access management

Module 3

Will I (or others) understand this project in 6 months?

- Documenting data and processes
- Metadata (light, adapted)
- Recording decisions
- Linking data → analysis → results

Module 4

How do I handle complexity and work with others?

- Version control (conceptual + optional practical)
- Workflow thinking (pipelines, dependencies)
- Collaboration practices
- Roles and responsibilities
- Communication

Module 5

Am I actually progressing toward completion?

- Planning milestones
- Tracking progress
- Managing scope changes
- Decision checkpoints
- Avoiding “endless research”

Module 6

How do I turn my work into results and finish well?

- Preparing outputs (papers, datasets, code)
- Sharing and archiving
- Reuse and long-term value
- Closing a project properly
- Dissemination

**Thank
you!**



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