

Research Information and Data Service Inventory

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Research libraries provide a broad portfolio of resources and services that support every stage of the research life cycle. This inventory is designed to help libraries, sponsored programs offices, and institutional costing teams identify, categorize, and plan for library-related costs in a consistent and defensible way.

Each resource or service in the inventory is classified according to who benefits and how costs may be appropriately assigned under federal cost principles. Services that benefit the institution broadly (potentially including all researchers, faculty, students, and staff) are classified as **institutional investments** and are eligible for indirect cost recovery where they apply to sponsored projects. Services that benefit a particular sponsored project and are allocable under 2 CFR 200 are classified as **project-specific**, making them candidates for direct charging to grants. Many activities fall into both categories, depending on the scope and context of their delivery. Note that journal subscriptions and article processing charges have been designated as unallowable for cost recovery under the proposed revisions to 2 CFR 200 that were issued in May 2026.

This framework reflects the operational reality that library resources and services exist on a continuum: they provide baseline institutional infrastructure while also supporting the specific activities of sponsored research. Recognizing that dual nature is essential for libraries seeking to articulate their value to research administrators, and for sponsored programs and costing teams seeking to ensure compliance and transparency in how research costs are recognized and recovered. Together, libraries and research offices can use this inventory as a starting point for cost studies, direct charging pilots, and advocacy for how library investments sustain the research enterprise.

	Institutional Investments	Project-Specific Activities	Proposed as Unallowable for Cost Recovery
Libraries & Data Facilities			
Data centers			
Facilities providing storage and network connectivity	✓		
Library buildings			
Physical spaces housing collections, study spaces, and personnel	✓		
Plan & Design			
Discovery and cataloging systems			
Platforms connecting users to available and relevant resources	✓		
Evidence synthesis and systematic review infrastructure			
Systems supporting comprehensive literature analysis	✓	✓	
Institutional subscriptions to databases and aggregators			
Institution-wide access to trusted information sources	✓	✓	
Interlibrary loan and resource sharing			
Providing nonlocal resources held by other institutions	✓	✓	
Materials purchasing, processing, and management			
Acquisition, purchasing, and organization of information resources	✓	✓	

	Institutional Investments	Project-Specific Activities	Proposed as Unallowable for Cost Recovery
Research workflow tool subscriptions	✓	✓	
Platforms supporting project management and collaboration			
Subscriptions to academic journals	✓	✓	X
Institution-wide access to scholarly publications			
Collect & Create			
Content digitization and transformation	✓	✓	
Converting physical materials to digital formats			
Data management planning	✓	✓	
Creating plans to organize, share, and preserve research data			
Data repositories and storage systems	✓	✓	
Platforms for storing, managing, and sharing research data			
Specialized datasets or databases	✓	✓	
Access to data to be analyzed or transformed			
Analyze & Collaborate			
Code and software hosting	✓	✓	
Systems for storing and sharing computational materials			
Code and software training	✓	✓	
Instruction on computational tools for data and analysis			
Computational storage space	✓	✓	
Specialized data storage for computationally intensive research			
Data curation and metadata services	✓	✓	
Organizing and describing research data			
Specialized research software	✓	✓	
Tools for widely used analytical methods, e.g., GIS, CAQDAS			
Share & Disseminate			
Article or book processing charges	✓	✓	X
Fees for publishing research outputs open access			
Institutional publishing services	✓	✓	
Platforms and systems supporting publication of research outputs			
Open access publishing agreements	✓	✓	X
Contracts enabling open publishing without a per-article fee			
Persistent identifier services and management	✓		
Tools ensuring long-term discoverability of research outputs			
Research communication guidance	✓	✓	
Support for open access compliance, copyright, and licensing			
Manage & Preserve			
Research data security	✓	✓	
Protocols and systems for secure storage and risk management			
Research visibility and impact	✓	✓	
Platforms and analysis to support tracking of research outputs			
Storage and preservation of research data	✓	✓	
Long-term maintenance and storage of digital research materials			

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