Q: What is the best way to introduce UTL RDM at faculty meetings? (elevator speech)
The approach that will probably get the best response would be to talk about the changing landscape surrounding funding requirements or journal requirements. Recently, the Tri-Agencies released the "Draft Tri-Agency Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management", which faculty may or may not be aware of. This document gives a good background of the type of policies – preservation, sharing, data management plans – that could be coming soon (or made more robust) in Canada, and outlines the potential responsibilities on the research institutions, the research communities, the researchers and the funding agencies. Also, increasingly journals are requiring that data be shared (usually in specific disciplinary repositories). If sharing requirements are in place for a journal, the policy can be found in the instructions for authors.

Q: Is this service just for faculty or students?
Any research data management service would be available to both faculty and students.

Q: So if a faculty member had a drawer full of data in their desk that they needed to make available OA, how can the library help? What should I say?
We could definitely have a conversation about helping. I would recommend having them (or you) email rdm@utoronto.ca so we could direct the question to the appropriate person.

Q: What should I tell faculty who are storing data in departmental spaces?
Departmental servers usually provide some back up and can be more secure than other storage options. If a researcher has questions about requirements, about how their data is backed up, or the security of their servers, they can be directed to their departmental IT group. There may be further backup or security options available through them if needed as well.

Q: What disciplines (besides STEM) are looking for help from the library for RDM?
I think all disciplines can benefit from help in this area. The thing to remember is that not all disciplines work with the same type of research data. Research data can mean a variety of things – numerical files, text documents, algorithms, protocols, images, etc. - and some disciplines (especially in the humanities) do not necessarily call their data, “data”.

Q: What do you mean by research data management? Could you give an example?
Research data management would, most simplistically, refer to the idea of developing procedures for controlling the information generated from a project, from inception to completion. Research data management often includes thinking about organizing data, ethical issues and privacy, intellectual property rights, roles and responsibilities, metadata and documentation, storage, security, retention, preservation, and sharing. UTL working with research data management could mean assisting researchers with any of these areas, or by providing training for researchers in best practices.

Q: Does proprietary data present particular challenges and what are the long term targets for archival retention of research data sets? Are you working with UTARMS?
Data that has intellectual property (IP) related barriers could present challenges in terms of archival retention, however to keep something does not require that you share it. If funding dictates IP restrictions, then you will know what you are able to do (or not do) with the data or whether you retain any IP rights. Proper data management from the beginning of a project can help you understand and prepare for such challenges, and in some cases, mitigate these concerns. From the perspective of a faculty member, most targets for retention for research data may be strongly tied to the retention/preservation requirements from the funding agencies. Right now, both SSHRC and CIHR have requirements to keep data for a certain amount of time. And yes, UTARMS is an important partner when speaking about preservation on campus.