Questions to consider* when planning for the life of research materials, be they hand-written survey forms, digital images or quantitative data. How can faculty, librarians, and academic technologists work together to help prepare students to ask themselves these questions about their own work?

1. Description: What kinds of materials do you collect and create in the course of your research and how do those materials relate to the finished product of the research? What formats are they in and can you estimate their size?
2. Stages: What are the "lifecycle" stages of the materials as you move through the different stages of your research? Where do you store your research materials?
3. Sharing: At any point in your research lifecycle would you want or be willing to share your research materials with others?
4. Access: Would you consider putting the research materials into a collection or repository for use by other researchers or students?
5. Transfer: What would you need to do to prepare, describe and organize the materials in order to make them usable by someone else?
6. Organization and Description: How are your research materials organized and described? Are they organized and described sufficient for someone else to use them? Are they organized and described according to disciplinary norms or standards?
7. Discovery: Who is most likely to want to share your research materials and which groups are of the highest priority: students and researchers at your institution, students and researchers in your field, outside your field, or the general public?
8. Intellectual property: Who is the owner of your research materials? Are any of your resources under license? Do you have collaborators or funding sources with requirements for sharing? Are there any privacy or confidentiality issues?
9. Tools: What software or hardware tools were used to generate or are required to utilize the research materials?
10. Linking/Interoperability: How important is it that your research materials interact with other resources such as publications, connecting or merging with other data, supporting the use of API's etc.
11. Measuring impact: Is it important to you to know who shares your research materials or how frequently they get used or cited?
12. Materials management: What are the ways you currently manage your research materials, including storage media and tools? Do you create backup copies?
13. Preservation: What are the most important parts of your research materials to maintain or preserve for your own work over time or to share with others? How long would your research materials have value for others if preserved?

*These questions are adapted from the interview instruments of the Data Curation Profile Toolkit, developed by Scott Brandt and Jake Carlson of Purdue University Libraries, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Distributed Data Curation Center.