Determining the minimum required retention period for your research records



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DEFINITION OF MAJOR RESEARCH

Records relating to University research projects with outcomes that are or become:

- of high interest,
- the subject of widespread debate or contention in the public arena
- have a major national or international significance,
- change the commonly held view or approach (paradigm shifting),
- alter or vary the typical example,
- where the principle investigator has a widely acknowledged influence in the area of scholarship.
- representative case for or epitome of a subject
- projects that involve the use of major or new innovative techniques,
- have potential major or long term impact on the environment, heritage, society or human health.
- have a legislative requirement to retain the records permanently, such as research involving Gene Therapy & Biotechnology.

MINOR RESEARCH

Records relating to research that is not deemed a major, as outlined above

DEFINITION OF A CLINICAL TRIAL

A clinical trial is a form of human research designed to find out the effects of an intervention, including a treatment or diagnostic procedure. A clinical trial can involve testing a drug, a surgical procedure, other therapeutic procedures and devices, a preventive procedure, or a diagnostic device or procedure.(definition from : National Health & Medical Research Council (2009) National Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Human Research, pg 33)

[Extract from pages 103 - 104 of the Western Australian University Sector Disposal Authority]