VA Data Intranet Resources, last updated March 2023 by Mary Whooley MD

This document contains a list of VA intranet resources that provide information on use of VA data. Please note that VA intranet URLs change frequently, so many of these links may no longer work.

Introductory Websites:

1. **VA Information Resource Center (VIReC)**
   a. Website: [http://www.virec.research.va.gov](http://www.virec.research.va.gov)
   b. Intranet Site: [http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Index.htm](http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Index.htm)
2. **VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI)**
3. **VHA Data Portal (Intranet Only)**
   c. YouTube DART overview: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36xEM6K_pLc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36xEM6K_pLc)

Links to Instruction Documents *(accessible only on VA intranet)*:

1. **DART User Guide**: This is a step-by-step guide to submitting a DART Application
2. **CDW Domains and what they contain**: All of the domains described in the CDW domain checklist (part of the DART application) are made up of tables.
3. **VINCI Workspace User Guide**: A guide to using the VINCI workspace
4. **VINCI Database User Guide**: A guide to navigating your VINCI Database.
5. **VINCI OMOP Academy**:
   [https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/VINCI_University-OMOP_Academy.aspx](https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/VINCI_University-OMOP_Academy.aspx)
   De-identified data for SQL practice available on server: \VHACDWRB01.vha.med.va.gov

Helpful Webinars: HSR&D conducts many helpful webinars that explain different aspects of VA data. To be added to the distribution of future webinars, email cyberseminar@va.gov. The following websites house a variety of different webinars:

- This webpage provides an overview of all HSR&D seminars (including VIReC)
  [http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/series.cfm](http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/series.cfm)
- This webpage provides links to all HSR&D seminar slides and recordings; can filter by series
- This webpage provides an overview of VIReC (only) seminars
- This webpage provides links to VIReC (only) seminar slides and recordings
Additionally, below find a selection of webinars that the Data Core and its partners have found particularly useful.

1. **Application Process:**
   a. [Requesting Access to VA Data](#)
   b. [Data Access Request Tracker (DART)](#)

2. **VA Data for Beginners:**
   a. [Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases and Research Uses](#)
   b. [Conducting a Research Study Using VINCI](#)
   c. [VINCI data & data services](#)
   d. [The VINCI Workspace](#)
   e. [CDW Resources](#)

3. **Further Resources:**
   a. [VIReC](#)
      i. [Assessing Race and Ethnicity in VA Data](#)
      ii. [Measuring Veterans’ Medicare Health Services](#)
      iii. [Ascertaining Veterans’ Vital Status: VA Data Sources for Mortality Ascertainment and Cause of Death](#)
   b. [Veterans Support Services Center (VSSC)](https://vssc.med.va.gov/VSSCMainApp/)
   c. [Reporting, Analytics and Field Training Sharepoint](http://raft.vssc.med.va.gov/Pages/default.aspx)

4. **Others:**
   a. [VIReC Clinical Informatics Seminars](#)
   b. [VIReC Good Data Practices](#)
   c. [Consortium for Healthcare Informatics Research](#)
   d. [HERC courses](#)
**CDW General Announcements:** (can subscribe by entering email address)

**CDW Help Desk:**
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SSRS/SitePages/Support.aspx

**CDW Training Announcements:** (sign up link at bottom of page)

**BISL CDW Sharepoint:**
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SitePages/CDW-Data-Access.aspx
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/MetaData

**CDW Handbook:**
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/OITBISL/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B1F0ABC60-
A401-47C6-85D3-CEBCCD1A7AA5%7D&file=CDW%20Guide%20Introduction%20and%20Policies.docx&action=default&m obileredirect=true&DefaultItemOpen=1

**CDW Data Tables:**
https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/VINCI_University-VINCI_Data-Data_Sources.aspx

**CDW Insights Classes:**
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SitePages/Training.aspx

**Data Access:** https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/MetaData/SitePages/Data-Request-Info.aspx

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CDW TUTORIALS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/03/29</td>
<td><strong>CDW: A Conceptual Overview 2017</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<td>2017/04/05</td>
<td><strong>CDW: Locating Its Documentation 2017</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<td>2018/05/23</td>
<td><strong>Querying CDW Meta Views</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<td>2016/10/24</td>
<td><strong>Getting CDW Back Together: Joining CDW Tables (Continued)</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016/10/31</td>
<td><strong>Data Management in SQL: Selected Intermediate SQL Skills</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016/09/08</td>
<td><strong>Using Stata Tools to Access CDW</strong></td>
<td>Lowy, Elliott</td>
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VINCI administrators will set up a Project folder [ORD_YourLastName_201204011D] on the project drive, P:\. This folder will be visible when you log into your VINCI workspace. Please remember, if you have multiple projects you may not transfer data among Project folders.

Instructions for accessing VINCI:
1. Go to VINCI’s homepage at https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/Home.aspx
2. Click on “Applications”
3. Click on Microsoft SQL Server Management
4. Message says, “the requested key container does not exist on the smart card” → click OK
5. Follow the remaining prompts until the program launches

Helpful links
• What VINCI Users Need to Know
• VHA Data Portal http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/Home.aspx
• VINCI’s Homepage http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/
• VINCI User Guides https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=926329a8-5896-4553-bb61-c7f7fa03f046&id=%2FShared%20Documents%2FVINCI%20User%20Guides
• VINCI Upload Tool https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/WebApps/VCFileTransfer/Upload
• Data available https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/VINCI_University-VINCI_Data-Data_Sources.aspx
• DART https://dart.vha.med.va.gov/vinci_dart_client/dart9/dashboard.html

VINCI Help Desk (801) 872-3324
M – F, 8am – 4:30 pm CST
Email: vinci@va.gov

VINCI Tools
• eHOST annotation tool
• VINCI ChartReview tool
• VINCI abstract tool
• VINCI annotation team
• VINCI University
• VINCI Tube
• VINCIpedia
• DaVINCI Data Academy
• VINCI Data Science Academy
Install SQL Server Management Studio software on your desktop

To access operational data (once approved), open SQL Server Management Studio on your desktop or laptop computer, and follow these instructions:

Connect → Database engine → Enter server name(s):
* VHACDWA01.vha.med.va.gov (for CDW production tables) and/or
* VHACDWA06.vha.med.va.gov (for CDW Raw tables)

Within server folder, go to
→ Databases
→ CDW Work
→ Views

Right click on table → select top 1000 rows

SQL SYNTAX: SELECT TOP 10 * FROM Database.Schema.TableName
Example: SELECT TOP 10 * FROM CDWWork.Con.Consult

Note: SAS Analytic Workspace
SQL Tutorials:

- Code Academy: https://www.codecademy.com/learn/learn-sql
  1) Manipulation
  2) Queries
  3) Aggregate Functions
  4) Multiple Tables (joins)

- http://www.sqlcourse.com/
- UCSF Library: Intro to SQL (3 hours)
- Learn how to do joins: http://blog.codinghorror.com/a-visual-explanation-of-sql-joins/
- TMS courses available on SQL server management studio (can get training certificate)

Basic SQL Classes (can speed up videos in windows media player):
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHASQLOfficeHours/Pages/StudentResources.aspx

Intermediate SQL Classes:
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHASQLOfficeHours/Pages/Intermed-Class-Student-Resources.aspx

SQL Office Hours SharePoint Site:
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SitePages/Training.aspx

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<td><a href="https://vhacdwdwhweb100.vha.med.va.gov/phenotype/index.php/Category:VINCI_Phenotypes">https://vhacdwdwhweb100.vha.med.va.gov/phenotype/index.php/Category:VINCI_Phenotypes</a></td>
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<td>Poor SQL Formatting Tool</td>
<td><a href="https://poorsql.com/">https://poorsql.com/</a></td>
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| SQL Office Hours Archive (searchable) | https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHASQLOfficeHours/SitePages/SQ