VA Data Intranet Resources, last updated April 2021 by Mary Whooley MD

This document contains a list of VA intranet resources that provide information on use of VA data.

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. Links to the tables contained in each of those domains can be found on the left-hand side of this page:
   [https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/DataSources](https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/DataSources)

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://vhacdwweb02.vha.med.va.gov/prod/vincipedia/VINCIPedia/OMOP%20Academy.aspx](https://vhacdwweb02.vha.med.va.gov/prod/vincipedia/VINCIPedia/OMOP%20Academy.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. DART – The Data Access Request Tracker Application

2. **VA Data for Beginners**:
   a. Overview of VA Data
   b. First-time users guide to CDW relational database
   c. The VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI)
   d. Conducting a Research Study Using VINCI
   e. VINCI data & data services
   f. The VINCI Workspace
   g. Getting the Information You Need From CDW: SQL Starter Language
   h. Metadata Resources for Researchers Beginning to Use CDW Data

3. **Further Resources**:
   a. VIReC
      i. Assessing Race and Ethnicity
      ii. Assessing Inpatient and Outpatient VA Health Care Use
      iii. Measuring Laboratory Use and Results Using the VA DSS National Lab Data
      iv. Examining Veterans’ Pharmacy Use with VA and Medicare Pharmacy Data
      v. Measuring Veterans’ Medicare Health Services Use
      vi. Ascertain Veterans’ Vital Status and Dates of Death
   b. CDW
      i. Joining Tables within a Domain
      ii. A Practical Guide to Using the Corporate Data Warehouse LabChem Data: VA Informatics and Computing
      iii. Identification of Outpatient Workload in CDW (Corporate Data Warehouse)
      iv. Metadata Resources for Researchers Beginning to Use CDW Data
   c. Veterans Support Services Center (VSSC)
      https://vssc.med.va.gov/VSSCMainApp/
   d. OMOP
      https://vhacdweb02.vha.med.va.gov/prod/vincipedia/VINCIpedia/OMOP%20Academy.aspx

4. **Others**:
   a. VIReC Clinical Informatics Seminars (select from drop down menu)
   b. VIReC Good Data Practices (select from drop down menu)
   c. Consortium for Healthcare Informatics Research (select from drop down menu)
   d. VA Statisticians’ Association (select from drop down menu)
   e. HERC courses
CDW General Announcements: (can subscribe by entering email address)
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SitePages/Announcements.aspx

CDW Help Desk:
https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/support/Lists/cdwpsrequest/AllItems.aspx (Project Support Request form)
or email: cdwprojectsupport@va.gov

CDW Training Announcements: (sign up link at bottom of page)
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SitePages/Training.aspx

BISL CDW Sharepoint:
https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/Pages/CDWHome.aspx
https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/metadata/default.aspx

CDW handbook:

CDW data tables: https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral//DataSources/Index

CDW Insights Day Presentations Schedule and Recordings:
https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/support/Training/cdwinsights/SitePages/Home.aspx

Local data access: https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/sites/security/Pages/Home.aspx

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CDW TUTORIALS</th>
<th>PRESENTERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/03/29</td>
<td>CDW: A Conceptual Overview 2017</td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/04/05</td>
<td>CDW: Locating Its Documentation 2017</td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/01/26</td>
<td>Getting the Information You Need From CDW: SQL Starter Language</td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018/05/23</td>
<td>Querying CDW Meta Views</td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015/07/27</td>
<td>Building Your Dataset in CDW: Joining Tables within a Domain</td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/10/24</td>
<td>Getting CDW Back Together: Joining CDW Tables (Continued)</td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016/10/31</td>
<td>Data Management in SQL: Selected Intermediate SQL Skills</td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/09/08</td>
<td>Using Stata Tools to Access CDW</td>
<td>Lowy, Elliott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/](https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/)
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**
- Videos
  - [A Brief Overview of the VINCI Data Provisioning Process](https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/)
  - [What VINCI Users Need to Know](https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/)
- Data available [http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/DataSources/Index](http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/DataSources/Index)

**VINCI Help Desk (801) 872-3324**

*M – F, 8am – 4:30 pm CST*  
[https://www.va.gov/vetdata/](https://www.va.gov/vetdata/)

**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
**SQL tutorials:**

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

- UCSF Library: Intro to SQL (3 hours)
- TMS courses available on SQL server management studio (can get training certificate)

Basic SQL Classes (can speed up videos in windows media player):
[https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/Pages/StudentResources.aspx](https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/Pages/StudentResources.aspx)

Intermediate SQL Classes:
[https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/Pages/Intermed-Class-Student-Resources.aspx](https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/Pages/Intermed-Class-Student-Resources.aspx)

SSRS Report Builder Training:
[https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/Pages/Report_Builder.aspx](https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/Pages/Report_Builder.aspx)

Script Library, which contains SQL scripts on many different subjects:
[https://app.cdw.va.gov/BISLVHACollab/scriptlibrary/index.aspx](https://app.cdw.va.gov/BISLVHACollab/scriptlibrary/index.aspx)

SQL Office Hours SharePoint Site:
[https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/Lists/SQL%20Office%20Hours%20Index%20FRE/Office%20Hours%20Index%20Main%20View.aspx](https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/Lists/SQL%20Office%20Hours%20Index%20FRE/Office%20Hours%20Index%20Main%20View.aspx)

SQL Query Efficiency Tool:

Other SQL and training resources:
[https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/SQL%20Training%20Resources/SQL%20Training%20Links.docx](https://vaww.fre.cdw.va.gov/sites/D04_BISLTeam/SQL%20Training%20Resources/SQL%20Training%20Links.docx)

SQL Query Best Practice Guide:

Linking Patient Data in the CDW:
[https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/metadata/Metadata%20Documents/Linking%20Patient%20Data%20in%20the%20CDW.pdf](https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/metadata/Metadata%20Documents/Linking%20Patient%20Data%20in%20the%20CDW.pdf)