VA Data Intranet Resources, last updated Sept 2019 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
   b. Intranet Site: http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Index.htm
2. VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI)
   a. Website: http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/vinci/
3. VHA Data Portal (Intranet Only)
   c. YouTube DART overview: 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:
4. VINCI Database User Guide: a guide to navigating your VINCI Database.

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

- This webpage provides links to all HSR&D seminar slides and recordings; can filter by series
  http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-archive.cfm

- This webpage provides an overview of VIREC (only) seminars
  http://www.virec.research.va.gov/Resources/Cyberseminars.asp

- This webpage provides links to VIREC (only) seminar slides and recordings
  http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-archive-virec.cfm
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. [Ascertaining Veterans’ Vital Status and Dates of Death](#)
   b. [CDW](#)
      i. [Joining Tables within a Domain](#)
      ii. [Seeing the Data When You Can’t See the Data: A Tour of Documentation of the CDW](#)
      iii. [A Practical Guide to Using the Corporate Data Warehouse LabChem Data: VA Informatics and Computing](#)
      iv. [Identification of Outpatient Workload in CDW (Corporate Data Warehouse)](#)
      v. [Metadata Resources for Researchers Beginning to Use CDW Data](#)
   c. [OMOP](#)
      https://www.vapulse.net/groups/vinci-omop-users-group

4. **Others:**
   a. [VIReC Clinical Informatics Seminars](#)
   b. [VIReC Good Data Practices](#)
   c. [Consortium for Healthcare Informatics Research](#)
   d. [VA Statisticians’ Association](#)
   e. [HERC courses](#)
**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

**BISL training group**
https://www.vapulse.net/community/business-intelligence-service-line-bisl/general-training

**CDW Tutorials:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PRESENTERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018/05/23</td>
<td><strong>Querying CDW Meta Views</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/04/05</td>
<td><strong>CDW: Locating Its Documentation 2017</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<td>2017/03/29</td>
<td><strong>CDW: A Conceptual Overview 2017</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<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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<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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<td>2016/09/08</td>
<td><strong>Using Stata Tools to Access CDW</strong></td>
<td>Lowy, Elliott</td>
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<td>2016/01/19</td>
<td><strong>CDW: Locating Its Documentation</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<td>2016/01/12</td>
<td><strong>CDW: A Conceptual Overview</strong></td>
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<td>2015/07/27</td>
<td><strong>Building Your Dataset in CDW: Joining Tables within a Domain</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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<td>2015/01/26</td>
<td><strong>Getting the Information You Need From CDW: SQL Starter Language</strong></td>
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<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/07/24</td>
<td><strong>First Time Research Users’ Guide to CDW: Getting Started with this Relational Database</strong></td>
<td>Gonsoulin, Margaret</td>
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</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. To log in to the VINCI Workspace, go to VINCI Central (VINCI's Homepage)
2. Click the link “Launch Workspace” at the top left-hand side of the page.
3. Follow the prompts for “Standard Workspace single monitor”, “Open”, and then “Connect”.
4. At the log in prompt enter either your PIV pin or select the options for your domain name/user name and then password if you have a PIV exemption.
   a. Your domain and user name is: VHA21\VHASFC_ _ _ _ _ _
5. Follow the remaining prompts until the program launches

Helpful links

- Data available [http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/DataSources/Index](http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/VinciCentral/DataSources/Index)

VINCI@va.gov

VINCI Help Desk (801) 872-3324 Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm CST.

National Service Desk: 855-NSD-HELP (855-673-4357)
VSSC Access

Instructions for National Data Systems Electronic Permission Access System
http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/Portals/0/Forms/NDS_ePAS_UserRequestGuide.pdf
Help email: NDS.OperationalAccessRequests@va.gov

Here is the online request form for VSSC access:

https://epas.r02.med.va.gov/submit.cfm?action=select&doc_type=690

→ click create document; wizard takes you to this site: https://epas.r02.med.va.gov/docedit.cfm

→ Fill out form
→ Request National (not site restricted) access to:
   • Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)
   • VSSC and MCA Web Reports
   • CAPRI / Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV)

Great SQL tutorial:
https://www.vapulse.net/docs/DOC-4002

There are 8 TMS courses available on SQL server management studio

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

CDW Announcements:
https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/support/SitePages/Announcements.aspx

(sign up link at bottom of page)