

Read-me file to accompany TIER documents for participants in the 2014 BITSS Summer Institute

The documents that this read-me file accompanies were prepared specially for the use of any participants in the 2014 BITSS Summer Institute who might be interested in learning more about Project TIER and the TIER documentation protocol.

If you end up using any of this in any way—teaching the TIER Protocol to students in a class or whose research you are supervising, for documenting your own research, to generate discussion with colleagues about transparency and reproducibility of social science research, or anything else—please let me know (rball@haverford.edu). Knowing who is using this and how will help guide us as we continue developing Project TIER in the future, and having a record of the interest this work is generating will be critical as we approach funders for continued support of the project.

If you would like MS Word versions of any of the .pdf documents among these materials, I would be happy to send them to you. Please just let me know. (Having an MS Word version might make it easier for you to tailor it to the particular needs of your students.)

And if you do end up using any of this, we would love to list you as a Partner of Project TIER. To see what that would look like, go to <http://www.haverford.edu/TIER/partners/>. All you would need to do is send us a brief blurb similar in style to those that are already posted there.

The documents I am sending are stored in three folders: “TIER Protocol 2.0-beta,” “Janne-Dagg paper and documentation,” and “Visual Illustration of TIER Directory Structure.”

The “TIER Protocol 2.0-beta” folder contains one document, which is a concise set of instructions for assembling complete documentation (in particular, documentation that makes reproducing computational results easy and exact) for an empirical research paper. These instructions are very similar to the ones I give students writing research papers in my intro stats class and to my senior thesis advisees.

The “Janne-Dagg paper and documentation” folder contains (slightly revised) copies of everything I presented at the BITSS Institute: the hypothetical paper by Janné and Dägg, and complete documentation for that hypothetical paper. It is very helpful to look at this example as you read the description of the protocol found in the “TIER Protocol 2.0-beta” folder. Things that may sound abstract and hard to understand when you read the general instructions may become clear when you see how things work in the example.

The “Visual Illustration of TIER Directory Structure” contains one document, a slightly revised version of the one-page handout I distributed at the Institute illustrating the structure of the directories in which the documentation of the Janné-Dägg paper is stored. Many people have commented that this visual is a helpful way of communicating how the TIER Protocol works.

I would be delighted to answer questions and comments would be much appreciated.