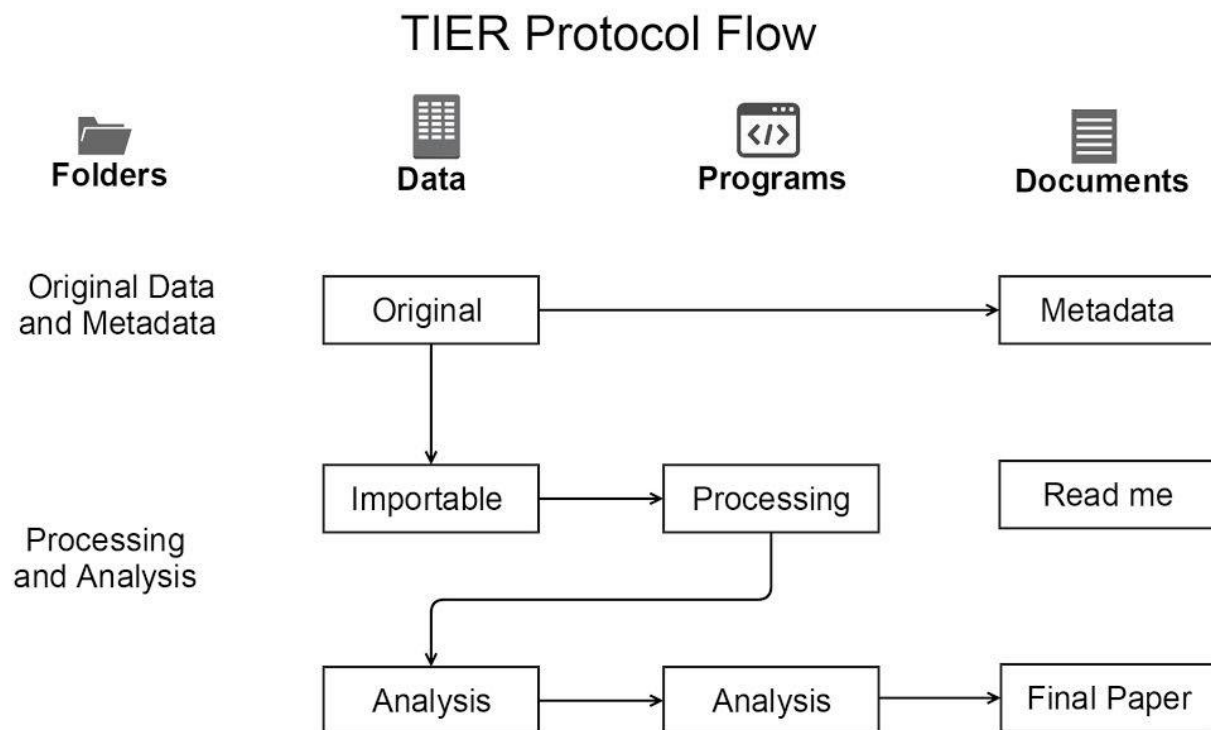


**Senior Thesis**  
**ECON 498/499**  
**Professor Tomas Dvorak**  
**2015-16**

All economics majors at Union College must write a senior thesis. Most theses use data and regression analysis, though theses that are more narrative or include a business plan are not uncommon. It has always been common practice for faculty to require submission of data and programs with thesis. More and more students use Stata or R to manipulate and analyze their data. However, some students use the software interactively (point and click), and even if they write programs they are rarely organized in a fashion that promotes reproducibility. At the beginning of this year, Tomas held a workshop for senior thesis students to explain the importance of reproducibility and organization of documents and programs along the lines of TIER protocol. The picture below is from Tomas' presentation.



The first crop of thesis students that were exposed to the TIER protocol just finished. It remains to be seen how many theses are reproducible. Tomas' own students followed the protocol but ran into a number of challenges. For example, one student used confidential data and thus is not able to post the data; another student used very large data and is still working on organizing all of his programs and data. Tomas plans to survey his colleagues on the extent to which their advisees' theses are reproducible. The first year of using the TIER protocol for senior thesis was harder than anticipated. This is largely because the students' priority is to get results rather than documenting and organizing the way they got to the results.