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Title: Leading from the library: data management initiatives at the University of Northampton

Date: 14 August 2012

Originally presented to: IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

Conference URL: http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78/session-116

Example citation: Pickton, M., Jones, S. and Guy, M. (2012) Leading from the library: data management initiatives at the University of Northampton. Paper presented to:*IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly (IFLA2012), Helsinki, Finland, 11-17 August 2012*.

Version of item: Presentation accompanying paper

Leading from the library: Research Data Management (RDM) at the University of Northampton

Miggie Pickton, Sarah Jones & Marieke Guy

IFLA, Helsinki, Finland, 14th August 2012

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Outline

- RDM initiatives at University of Northampton
- RDM support from the Digital Curation Centre
- The role of the librarian in supporting RDM

The University of Northampton

- University status achieved in 2005
- Increased focus on research and supporting the research community
- 200+ research students; more research active staff
- Like other UK institutions, we want to perform well in the REF (Research Excellence Framework)

Research data at Northampton

Back in 2010...

- Increasing external interest in research data (from funders, publishers etc)
- Central services knew little about researchers' data management practices
- No research data policy existed
- So we undertook our first research data project, using the DCC's Data Asset Framework (DAF)

DAF at Northampton

- Project team: librarian led, two researchers
- Ran from May to June 2010 (eight weeks)
- Three stages of data collection
- Topics covered: Types, sizes and formats of research data; data ownership; storage; security; sharing and access (short and long term); funders' requirements

DAF project outcomes

- 80 researchers responded to the survey; 16 follow-up interviews; all Schools represented
- Findings: some common RDM behaviours, some variance; little interest in open access
- 9 recommendations, including creation of a research data policy and procedure

(Full results and recommendations are described in the project report – see Alexogiannopoulos *et al*., 2010)

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From project to policy

October 2010	• DAF project report presented to University Research Committee (URC)
November 2010	• URC Research Data Working Group convened
Nov-Dec 2010	• Policies from other institutions reviewed
January 2011	• Discussions with the DCC re 'generic' version of DMP Online
Jan-June 2011	• Research Data Policy proposed, refined and approved

Northampton's RDM policy & procedure

Follow the RCUK Code of Good Practice

- At the start of a project, produce a DMP in line with funder or university requirements
- Carry out the actions outlined in the DMP
- At the end of the project, deposit data in a national collection or the university's secure central storage facility

Outline

- RDM initiatives at University of Northampton
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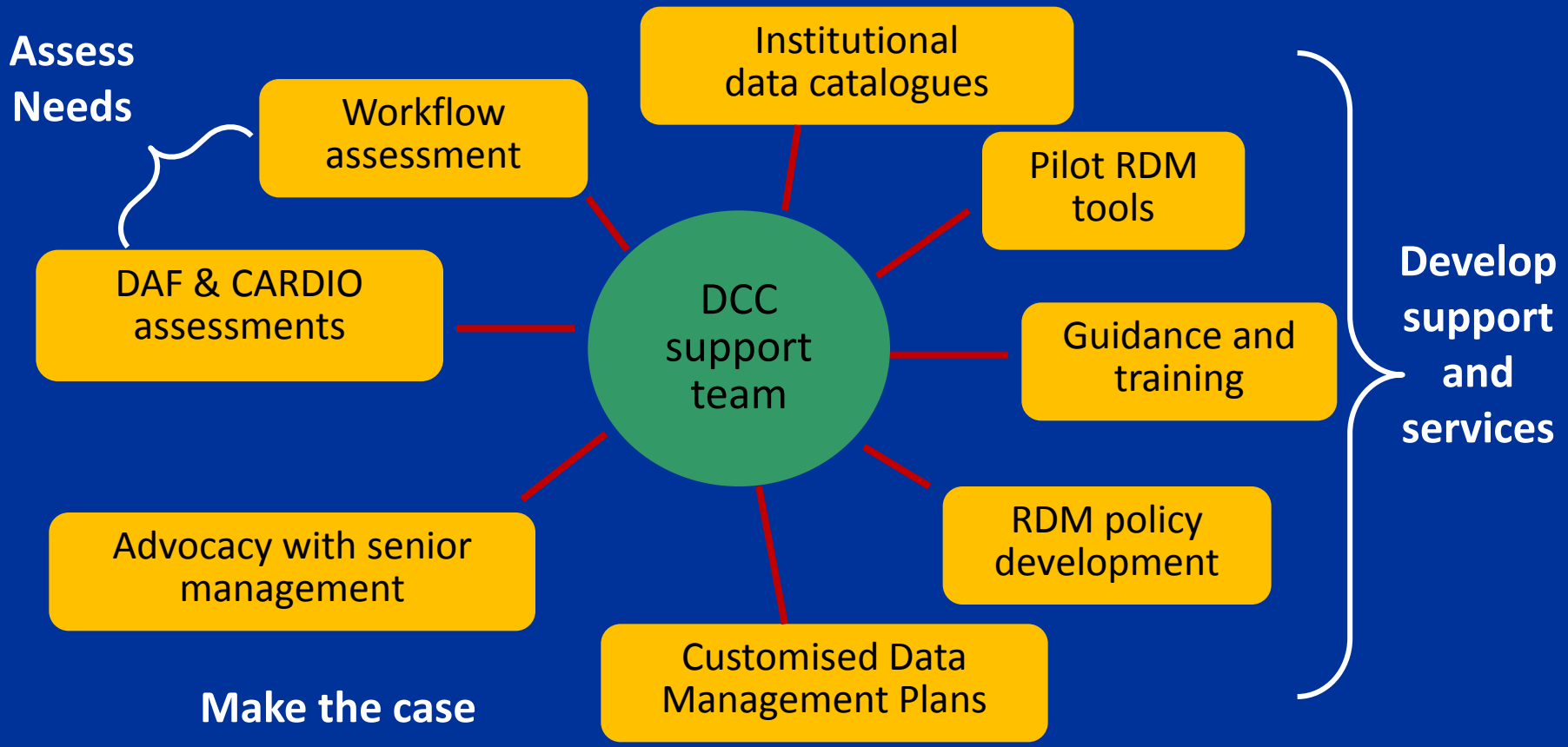
What is the DCC?

- A UK centre to support universities with RDM



Institutional support

- We're giving in-depth RDM support to 21 universities
  - 60 days of effort per university
  - Deploy DCC & external tools
  - Support varies based on university needs
  - Lessons to be shared with community

www.dcc.ac.uk/community/institutional-engagements

DCC support at Northampton

Trial the Research Data Policy

- Write Data Management Plans (DMPs)
- Try out the research data storage

Develop disciplinary training

Raise awareness & roll out good practice

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Data Management Plans

- Testing DMP Online with researchers
- Develop plans with individual researchers → guidelines for the group / centre
- Improve the Northampton tool & guidance

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Research Data Storage

- Test using TUNDRA2 (the Electronic Records Management System) for research data
- Pilot studies in November 2012
  - Can TUNDRA2 support data?
  - Are the access controls sufficient?
  - What else is needed by researchers?

Disciplinary training

- Use disciplinary case studies for relevance
- Review existing materials for good diagrams, explanations, examples...
- Include ideas from participating researchers
- Embed into core curriculum

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Raise awareness & good practice

Raise awareness of the policy

↓

Write DMPs & test storage

↓

Develop examples for training

↓

Roll out good practice

Outline

- RDM initiatives at University of Northampton
- RDM support from the Digital Curation Centre
- The role of the librarian in supporting RDM

Leading from the library

- Dedicated Research Support post in library since 2007, now a team of two
- 'Open Research' at Northampton:
  - NECTAR, the institutional repository
  - Northampton Open Journals
  - Research Data Policy
- ... **ALL** initiated by library staff and delivered in consultation with the research community

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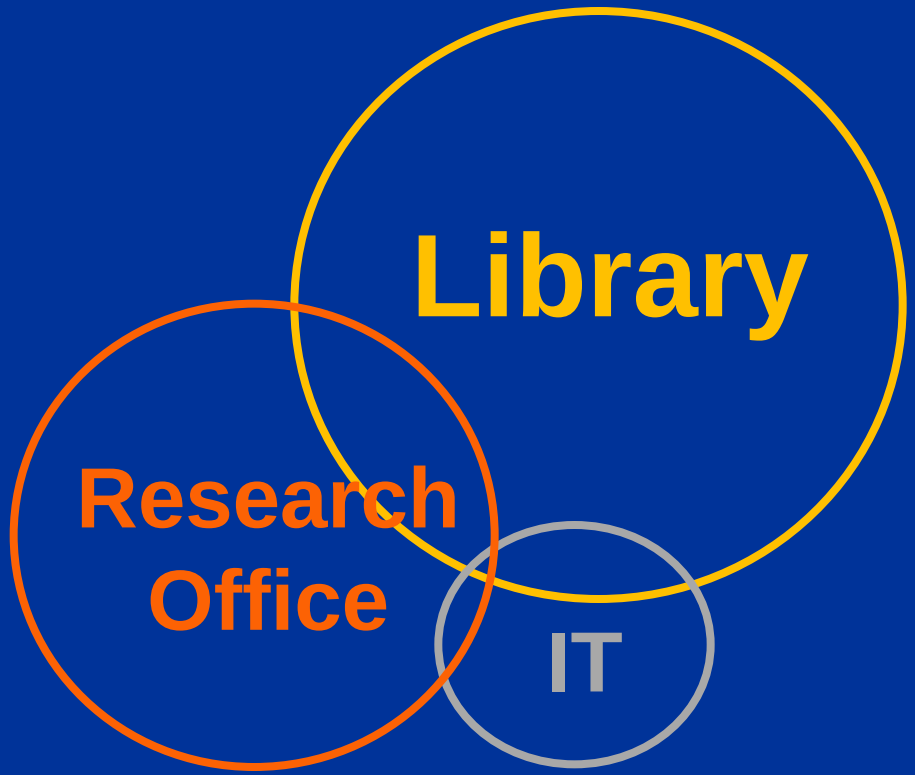
The library is leading on most of the DCC engagements



Information management is a key skill in RDM, so it's a major role for librarians

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But, librarians feel they lack skills...

Skills gap	2-5 years	Now
Preserving research outputs	49%	10%
Data management & curation	48%	16%
Complying with funder mandates	40%	16%
Data manipulation tools	34%	7%
Data mining	33%	3%
Metadata	29%	10%
Preservation of project records	24%	3%
Sources of research funding	21%	8%
Metadata schema, disciplinary standards, practices	16%	2%

From RLUK, *Re-skilling for Research*, Jan 2012, p43

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The Informatics Transform: re-engineering libraries for the data decade

- Address the lack of data informatics skills
- Mainstream data librarians & data scientists
- Embed new skills into LIS & iSchool curriculum

Lyon, 'The Informatics Transform' in *IJDC,* 7(1), 2012

Fill gaps through engagement?

"Librarians may need to raise their profile, become 'researchers' themselves; getting embedded in the research community; gaining credibility; and collaborating as equals."

Bent et al, 'Information literacy in a researcher's learning life' in *New Review of Information Networking*, 13 (2), 2007

Conclusions

RDM requires the input of all support services, but libraries are taking the lead in the UK – why?

– often run publication repositories

– have good relationships with researchers

– highly relevant skill set

Northampton is a great example - be inspired!

Thanks

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Digital Curation Centre