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http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/4425/

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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


**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
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)
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
• RDM support from the Digital Curation Centre
• The role of the librarian in supporting RDM
What is the DCC?

• A UK centre to support universities with RDM

Assess Needs
- DAF & CARDIO assessments
- Advocacy with senior management
- Workflow assessment

Develop support and services
- Institutional data catalogues
- Pilot RDM tools
- Guidance and training
- RDM policy development
- Customised Data Management Plans

Make the case
- DCC support team
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
Data Management Plans

• Testing DMP Online with researchers

• Develop plans with individual researchers → guidelines for the group / centre

• Improve the Northampton tool & guidance
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
Raise awareness & good practice

1. Raise awareness of the policy
2. Write DMPs & test storage
3. Develop examples for training
4. 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
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.
But, librarians feel they lack skills...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills gap</th>
<th>2-5 years</th>
<th>Now</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preserving research outputs</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data management &amp; curation</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complying with funder mandates</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Preservation of project records</td>
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<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metadata schema, disciplinary standards, practices</td>
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<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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