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Conference or Workshop Item

Title: Research data management at the University of Northampton

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Example citation: Pickton, M. (2012) Research data management at the University of Northampton. Poster presented to: *JISC/Digital Curation Centre (DCC) Workshop: Building institutional RDM services, Nottingham, 24-25 October 2012.*

Version: Presented version

<http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/4573/>



About the University of Northampton

- University status achieved in 2005
- Increased focus on research and supporting the research community
- 200+ research students plus more research active staff
- Responding to sector wide drivers: REF; data publication; funders...

The challenge

Back in 2010:

- Little was known centrally about university researchers’ data storage requirements, or the research workflow that incorporates the creation and management of data
- No university wide data storage policy or procedure existed
- In NECTAR (our institutional repository), we had available the infrastructure to store and preserve digital data
- Previous studies had noted that the process of undertaking a **DAF project** had been valuable in itself, even if the resulting inventory of data was only partial



Data Asset Framework (DAF) project

- Project team:
 - Library led, with two project researchers (graduate interns) plus a Project Board comprising staff with expertise in repositories, records management and collection development
- Ran from May to June 2010 (eight weeks)
- Data collection, three stages:
 - Initial interviews with research leaders in each School; online survey of researchers; one-to-one interviews with researchers
- 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 and 16 agreed to take part in the follow-up interviews; all Schools were represented
- Some common behaviours were identified but also variance
- Data storage needs, behaviours and vulnerabilities varied through the research lifecycle.
- 56% of participants agreed that they would like a university repository to store their research data, but not necessarily to offer open access
- Nine recommendations were made, covering:
 - Reporting to senior research managers and leaders
 - Creation of a university research data policy and procedure
 - Clarification of the ownership of research data
 - Training and guidance
 - Dissemination of findings

From project to policy: timeline

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

The university’s research data policy and procedure¹

The University of Northampton expects researchers to:

- Follow the RCUK (Research Councils UK) code of good research conduct² with respect to research data:
 - Keep clear and accurate records of research procedures and results
 - Hold records securely
 - Ensure data are accessible to others after the completion of the research (depositing in a national collection if possible)
 - Manage data in accordance with funders’ policies and relevant legislation
- Produce and follow a data management plan (DMPOnline³ is recommended)

In exchange the university will:

- Provide a dedicated storage facility for research data
- Offer training and support for research data management

We have also worked with researchers and members of the university’s Research and Strategic Bidding Office to develop a **research data roadmap** in response to the EPSRC’s call for action.

¹ <https://www.northampton.ac.uk/info/20283/academic-research/1606/research-data-policy>

² <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/reviews/grc/goodresearchconductcode.pdf>, pages 7-8

³ <https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/>



Working with the DCC

As part of our institutional engagement we are working with Sarah Jones and Marieke Guy of the DCC to:

- Implement the university’s research data policy:
 - Raise awareness of good data management practice
 - Offer training and advice in writing data management plans
 - Create a university storage facility for research data
- Establish researchers’ data management needs and develop appropriate training and services to support these, including:
 - One to one research data ‘clinics’
 - Subject specific training for Schools and research groups
 - Targeted training for research students and library staff
- Promote the university’s research data roadmap at the highest level to win support for its recommendations