This work has been submitted to NECTAR, the Northampton Electronic Collection of Theses and Research.

**Conference or Workshop Item**

**Title:** Research data management at the University of Northampton

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**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
- DAF project report presented to University Research Committee (URC)
- URC Research Data Working Group convened
- Policies from other institutions reviewed
- Discussions with the DCC re ‘generic’ version of DMP Online
- Research Data Policy proposed, refined and approved

The university’s research data policy and procedure
The University of Northampton expects researchers to:
- Follow the RCUK (Research Councils UK) code of good research conduct 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 (DMPOnline 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.

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

Prepared by Miggie Pickton for JISC / DCC workshop: ‘Building institutional RDM services’; Nottingham, 24th - 25th October 2012