The front office – back office model: Supporting data curation

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Data Archiving and Networked Services

• Institute of KNAW and NWO
• 2005; roots in SSH, but expanding
• 50 colleagues
• Mission: guarantee permanent access to research data for the future
Policy context

• Data sharing gains importance in science
• Funders demand OA to publicly funded research data, implying long-term preservation of these data in TDRs
• University libraries are looking for new roles in the digital age
The collaborative data infrastructure – a framework for the future

Based on: Riding the wave: How Europe can gain from the rising tide of scientific data - Final report of the High Level Expert Group on Scientific Data. A submission to the European Commission, October 2010
BO-FO Institutions

• Front offices
  – Universities (libraries, data centers)
  – Other research institutes

• Back office
  – DANS (humanities, social sciences)
  – 3TU.Datacentrum (technical sciences)
  – ...

• Trusted digital repositories!
Building a bridge Together

Supporting data curation through the front office / back office model

The data centers DANS and 3TU.Datacentrum aim to improve their services by creating a front office / back office model together with the universities. The recent cooperation between Leiden University Libraries and DANS and 3TU.Datacentrum provides the first use case of this new model. This case shows that by cooperating, we build an efficient and solid infrastructure that supports data sharing now and in the future.

Benefits for researchers
- Researchers benefit from increased data curation knowledge at FO
- Researchers have better access to sustainable storage of their data
- Researchers gain time by engaging in data management in an early stage

Benefits for front office (FO)
- FO benefits from data storage facilities at FO
- FO benefits from FO’s knowledge on data curation
- FO supports library’s mission to be a partner in research

Benefits for back office (BO)
- BU benefits from well-trained FO contact persons for researchers
- BU benefits from direct contact with their target group through FO
- BU acquires more data that are better prepared for archiving and reuse
Services in the model

• Information and awareness raising

• Training (data librarians and researchers)

• Storage (during and after the research)
Roles and responsibilities

Front Office

• **Focus on information and awareness raising:**
  – Information portal research community
  – Awareness raising, support and training research community
  – Supporting VREs (research tools, data storage during research; Sharepoint, Dataverse, etc.; automatic ingest in TDR)
  – Liaising with back office
  – Data acquisition
Roles and responsibilities
Back Office

- Focus on expertise and long term storage:
  - Providing expertise to the research community: training courses
  - Providing expertise to the front office: training courses for datalibrarians, consultancy, contact persons
  - Expertise and innovation in the area of permanent storage, data management and re-use of data
  - Long term preservation of data in a trusted digital repository
Benefits for researchers
+ Researchers benefit from increased data curation knowledge at FO
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Benefits for front office (FO)
+ FO benefits from data storage facilities at BO
+ FO benefits from BO’s knowledge on data curation
+ FO supports library’s mission to be a partner in research

Benefits for back office (BO)
+ BO benefits from well trained FO contact persons for researchers
+ BO benefits from direct contact with their target group through FO
+ BO acquires more data that are better prepared for archiving and reuse
Research Data Netherlands

- Mission: the promotion of sustained access and responsible re-use of digital research data
- Existing cooperation DANS-3TU.Datacentrum (D4L training, Dutch Dataprize)
- Expanding cooperation back office function
- Open to other trusted digital repositories
Future challenges

- Expanding the model over all universities
- Creating technical infrastructure for automatic data ingest
- Developing a business model to cover the costs
Thank you for your attention!

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