The Do-It-Yourself Research Data Management Training Kit for Librarians

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PK session, IASSIST 2013
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Picture courtesy GESIS, IASSIST 2013 website
IASSIST’ers and librarians are doing it for themselves!

Eurythmics and Aretha Franklin video (from YouTube)
Background

- The Data Library as part of Information Services

- University of Edinburgh RDM activity:
  - Research Data Management Policy
  - Roadmap to implement policy

- Data Management Support in Roadmap

- Edinburgh pilot training in RDM for librarians
Data Library service at Edinburgh: since 1983

finding...
accessing ...
using ...
teaching ...
managing

ChartsBin and mkandlez on flickr
Uni of Edinburgh’s RDM Policy
Our Research Data Management Roadmap (to implement the policy)

- Data Management Planning
- Active Data Infrastructure
- Data Stewardship

Data Management Support

Involvement from across University and Information Services
Data Management Support

General consultancy and support service throughout the research process
Supporting and training researchers

- Online guidance for academic staff
- Training PhD students and early career researchers
- Awareness-raising and service rollout
- Data management consultancy; grant-costed effort such as embedded librarians or data librarians
- Training librarians & IT staff to prepare for rollout
Research Data MANTRA

- Openly licensed online learning self-paced course in RDM for postgrads and early career researchers
- Grounded in three disciplines, working with post-graduate schools
- Video stories from researchers in variety of settings
- Data handling exercises in four software analysis packages

http://datalib.edina.ac.uk/mantra
Online training for PhD students

Organising data

Versioning

It is important to identify and distinguish versions of research data files consistently. This ensures that a clear audit trail exists for tracking the development of a data file and identifying earlier versions when needed. Thus you will need to establish a method that makes sense to you that will indicate the version of your data files.

- A common form for expressing data file versions is to use ordinal numbers (1,2,3 etc.) for major version changes and the decimal for minor changes e.g v1, v1.1, v2.6
- Beware of using confusing labels: revision, final, final2, definitive_copy as you may find that these accumulate
- Record every change irrespective of how minor that change may be
A peak inside MANTRA (wordle)
Challenges for Librarians in RDM

• Finding time to pursue new activities
• Establishing credibility in a new area of expertise
• Learning new skills; ‘getting techie’
• Getting hands dirty with unpublished material
Liaison librarian training (2012-13)

- Data Library agreed to pilot training with 4 liaison librarians
- Aimed to reuse MANTRA in a blended learning approach for academic liaison librarians
- Idea inspired by *Data Intelligence 4 Librarians* hybrid course from 3TU Delft
Research data management and library roles: experiences from Monash University
University of Edinburgh Library, 22 March 2011

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Approach: pilot librarian training

- Librarians are professionals with own experience and concerns to bring to training

- Obtain buy-in from start, from participants as well as their managers

- Small group (4 plus facilitator), private setting, plenty of time for discussion, sharing stories

- Emphasis on facilitation rather than teaching
Five topics / modules

- Data management planning
- Documenting & organising data
- Data storage & security
- Ethics & copyright
- Data sharing

Topics of interest agreed with participating librarians before start of training. Loose correspondence to MANTRA units.
Course structure: five sessions

- Each face to face session two hours duration
- Facilitated by an ‘expert’ (data librarian)
- Invited guest speakers to kick off each session
- Short talks followed by long discussions
- Interactive group exercises from UK Data Archive *Train the Trainers* workbook
‘Homework’ assignments

- Allow 2 weeks to complete prior to session
- MANTRA modules & recommended reading
- Reflective questions to think as a researcher
- Independent study:
  - Interview a researcher
  - Write up a Data Curation Profile
  - The first builds confidence; the second practices what we preach (sharing)
Because we love librarians -
DIY RDM Training Kit for Librarians
Contents of the training kit

- Overview for facilitators
- Course schedule
- Reflective questions for each session
- Selected group exercises from UK Data Archive
- Independent study assignment: Data Curation Profile, from D2C2, Purdue University Libraries
- Podcasts and presentations of short talks
- Evaluation forms

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