Data Management Planning in the Social Sciences in the UK

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OVERVIEW

• §1 Policies on Data Sharing
• §2 Archives, Support Services and Tools
• §3 Practice: Plans and Procedures, Operationalisation and Monitoring
• §4 Conclusion: Integration and Collaboration, in the UK and Beyond
• §5 References
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§1 POLICIES ON DATA SHARING
§1.1 Funder policies on data sharing

- Increasingly research funders require data management and sharing planning - mandate or encourage data sharing

- UK research councils requiring data management plans
  - AHRC
  - BBSRC
  - ESRC
  - MRC
  - NERC
  - The Wellcome Trust

Source:
www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/policy-and-legal/overview-funders-data-policies

References: [1] to [5]
§1.2 RCUK shared principles

RCUK Common Principles on Data Policy

Key messages:

1. Data are a **public good**
2. Adherence to community **standards and best practice**
3. **Metadata** for discoverability and access
4. Recognise constraints on **what data** to release
5. Permit **embargo periods** delaying data release
6. Acknowledgement of / compliance with **T&Cs**
7. Data management and sharing activities should be explicitly **funded**

http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/DataPolicy.aspx
§1.3 ESRC research data policy

- ESRC research data policy revised in 2010 [2]
- Since May 2011, DMPs are required for all applications where data will be created
- Data must be offered to UK Data Archive when research ends (via Economic and Social Data Service)
- DMPs should include or cover:
  - assessment of existing data;
  - information on new data;
  - quality assurance of data;
  - back-up and security of data;
  - expected difficulties in data sharing;
  - copyright/Intellectual Property Right;
  - responsibilities;
  - preparation of data for sharing and archiving.
§1.4 Funding application process

- All UK RCs use the Je-S form for grant applications, as do the Technology Strategy Board and the Energy Technologies Institute
- ESRC require a DMP as mandatory attachment (max 3 pages)
- DMPs are reviewed by peers as an integral part of grant application
- ESRC plan to revisit the applicant and reviewer experiences after a few months
§2 ARCHIVES, SUPPORT SERVICES AND TOOLS
2.1 UKDA: supporting social science researchers

- **Online data management and sharing guidance for social sciences**
  3500 hits/month [6]

- **Managing and Sharing Data - best practice for researchers**
  3400 distributed to date [7]

- **ESDS guidance for preparing DMPs** [8]

- **Training workshops on various data management topics**
  300 participants since 2008
§2.2 DCC: support for all

- Policy monitoring
- Data management planning resources: Checklist [9], DMP Online [10], guidance...
  - As of yesterday, there are 451 plans on the system, of which 82 have ESRC as funder (2\textsuperscript{nd} highest share)
- Regional data management roadshows
- DC101 training courses (with UKDA contributions)
- How-To guides and other publications
§3 PRACTICE: PLANS AND PROCEDURES, OPERATIONALISATION AND MONITORING
§3.1 Recent discussions

- Moving towards a more formal relationship where RCs have increased ownership of the way they are portrayed in DMP Online: mappings, guidance [11], endorsement
- Ongoing dialogue between ESRC, RCUK, UKDA, ESDS and DCC about data policy and DMPs
- Streamlining of processes and systems
§4 CONCLUSION: INTEGRATION AND COLLABORATION, IN THE UK AND BEYOND
§4.1 Integration

- Data policy streamlining
- UK Data Archive developing DMP guidance for applicants and for reviewers for ESRC (also being built in to DMP Online tool) [11]
- JISC call for projects to link DMP Online with institutional admin/funding systems, CRISs, etc...
§4.1 Collaboration

- DCC-RIN Research Data Management Forum
- Unconference session on reviewing DMPs at recent JISC international workshop with representation from funders: share real DMP experiences of BBSRC, Relu and CEH
- Crowdsourcing of DCC Checklist
- International collaborations (USA, Australia...)
§5 REFERENCES

Numbered in slides:

• [3] Medical Research Council (n.d.) MRC policy on data sharing and preservation. URL: www.mrc.ac.uk/Ourresearch/Ethicsresearchguidance/Datasharinginitiative/Policy/index.htm
• [6] UK Data Archive. Create and manage data. URL: www.data-archive.ac.uk/create-manage

See also:
§6 CONTACTS

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