Data Management Skills Support Initiative (DaMSSI)

This work jointly funded by the Research Information Network (RIN) and Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)

Laura Molloy
Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute (HATII)
University of Glasgow
The Data Management Skills Support Initiative (‘DaMSSI’)

• JISC Managing Research Data programme (04/2010 call)
• JISC Research Data Management Training Materials (‘RDMTrain’) strand – support project
• 5 RDMTrain projects – postgraduate training materials – 6 disciplines:
  - ‘CAiRO’ at Bristol (creative and performing arts)
  - ‘MANTRA’ at Edinburgh (social and political science, clinical psychology and geosciences)
  - ‘DATUM for Health’ at Northumbria (health studies)
  - ‘DMTpsych’ at York (psychological sciences)
  - ‘DataTrain’ at Cambridge (social anthropology and archaeology).
Background

- Research data management skills not currently widely embedded in UK postgraduate training
- Agreement needed on what constitutes a basic set of postgraduate data management skills
  - Consistent descriptions of skills
  - Framework that supports progression of skills over time
- Two recently developed models may be able to help:
  - Vitae’s Researcher Development Framework
  - ‘Research lens’ for SCONUL’s Seven Pillars model
Key work areas

• Support for RDMTrain projects
• Mapping of projects’ training materials
• Comparison / synthesis of mappings from the projects
• Recommendations for Vitae and SCONUL
• Career profiles
• Recommendations for professional bodies and LIS course providers
Findings

- Usefulness of discipline-specific definitions, examples and exercises;
- Students like DMPs – with discipline-specific interpretation;
- Data management / information-handling language a barrier for researchers;
- Balance needed: discipline-specific detail / brief and concise training;
- Timing matters: early (but not too early); embedding helps;
- Face-to-face delivery popular;
- Benefits of RDM must be foregrounded.

Refined into 19 recommendations: in project report.
Achievements

• Researcher career development models will incorporate data management skills
• Value of generic and discipline-specific data management skills in successful training is established
• Engagement with professional bodies

Future activities

• Engagement with professional bodies
• RIN Information-Handling Working Group
• Digital Curation Centre
• DPOE and DigCurV
DaMSSI recommendations and career profiles available online at:

Digital Curation Centre:
http://tinyurl.com/DaMSSI-DCC

Research Information Network:
http://tinyurl.com/DaMSSI-RIN

Thank you for listening!

Laura.Molloy@glasgow.ac.uk