Implementing the Research Data Management Policy: University of Edinburgh Roadmap

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The story continues

- We last presented RDM work at Edinburgh at IDCC in December, 2010 (Rice & Haywood).
- We observed that Universities seemed to be reluctant to step up to the challenge.
- We presented results of working groups on research data storage and policy and the content of our draft policy.
What a difference 2 years makes

• Our policy passed the Senate following consultation with colleges in May, 2011.
• EPSRC turned tables and made research organisations responsible for data sharing and preservation, not just PIs.
• Jisc has funded and DCC has enabled many UK universities to develop policies and infrastructure (UoE participates in DCC inst’l engagement programme)
Edinburgh policy content: worldle
The road to policy implementation

- The Executive Summary of the Information Services Plan, 2012-13 states, “Research data management & storage – policies, training, curation, preservation, baseline 0.5Tb/user,” is a major IS-led project for the year.
- A Roadmap for its delivery was drafted and approved, noting objectives, outcomes, deliverables and actions for an initial 18-month period August 2012-January 2014, across four strategic areas.
- The Roadmap is a living document, published on the UoE website.
RDM Roadmap governance

- Implementation Committee - membership from across Information Services (Library, Data Library, IT Infrastructure, User Services, DCC)
- Charged with delivering services that will meet policy objectives which can be achieved in the near term
- Reports to academic Steering Group which ensures services are fit-for-purpose (e.g. pilots)
Data Management Planning
Active Data Infrastructure
Data Stewardship

Data Management Support
Data Management Planning

- Support and services for planning activities that are typically performed before research data is collected or created
  - Addresses policy points 3, 4
Data Management Planning objectives in the roadmap

1. Tailored DMP assistance for PIs submitting research proposals
   - Analyse plans and collate a set of successful examples
   - Consultancy service for researchers wanting advice

2. Customise DMP Online for optimal UoE use
   - Evaluate DMP Online with Edinburgh researchers
   - Brand / customise DMP Online for Edinburgh
   - Develop custom guidance with Schools
   - See DCC blog post on global changes to DMP Online
Active Data Infrastructure

- Facilities to store data that are actively used in current research activities, to provide access to that storage, and tools to assist in working with the data
  - Addresses policy points 5, 8
Data infrastructure planning

- Ongoing design of common storage infrastructure and file-store delivery
  - Resilience
  - Recoverability
  - Cost / Capacity
- Ongoing discussion with suppliers and procurement
- Initial planning for delivery (backup, physical)
Data store recommendation: single site solution
Data Stewardship

- Tools and services to aid in the description, deposit, and on-going management of completed research data outputs
  - Addresses policy points 6, 7, 9, 10
Data stewardship services

- Data (dark) archive service - vault
- Data asset registry
- Data repository (enhanced)
- PURE Current Research Information System (CRIS) integrated with other systems
Data Management Support

• General consultancy and support service throughout the research process
  – Address policy points 1, 2, 4
Supporting and training researchers

• Online guidance for academic staff
• Embedding RDM training into postgraduate programmes (MANTRA)
• Training librarians & IT staff
• Awareness-raising and service roll-out across schools and research units
• Data management consultancy; grant-costed effort such as in-depth planning or metadata support; assisted deposit of large collections
Why do we need awareness raising?

• A common question: “Why has nobody told me about this before?”

• A common statement: “We need help with keeping up to date with the new tools/services that are continually appearing … I generally only hear about these by chance…”
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.
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URLs

• University of Edinburgh RDM Policy (with link to Roadmap)
  – http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/research-data-policy

• Research data guidance
  – http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/data-management

• MANTRA online training
  – http://datalib.edina.ac.uk/mantra/

• Edinburgh DataShare
  – http://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/

• Edinburgh Research Explorer
  – http://www.research.ed.ac.uk/portal/