Development of an Analytic Rubric to Facilitate & Standardize the Review of NSF Data Management Plans

International Digital Curation Conference 2015

DA R T Project
A multi-university study of faculty data management plans submitted to NSF. Turn the DMP into a research tool!

Project Outputs
1) An analytic rubric to standardize the review of data management plans as a means to inform targeted expansion or development of research data services at academic libraries;
2) A study utilizing the rubric that presents the results of data management plan analyses at five universities.

Project Phases
1) Acquisition of DMPs
2) Iteratively develop analytic rubric
3) Use rubric to analyze DMPs
4) Finalize & share rubric
5) Share results of DMP analyses at 5 research intensive US universities

Rubric Development
1. Analyze DMP requirements from NSF-wide & directorate guidance
2. Identify tasks in DMPs, and components of each task
3. Develop scale to describe how well component was addressed in DMP
4. Pilot test the rubric using 25 DMPs

Preliminary Observations
• Developing the rubric was challenging
  • The NSF requirements / guidelines are not always clear
  • How to cover multiple directorates within a single rubric while streamlining the form & process?
  • What is a reasonable level of granularity?
  • How to ensure consistency across reviewers?
• Wording in DMPs indicates that concepts are not well understood
  • Questions on what was meant by statements like “no restrictions on access”
• There is potentially useful information in DMPs that is not captured by only evaluating NSF requirements
  • E.g., did they mention the IR?

Next Steps
• Revisit the rubric to determine:
  • Are we capturing the right information?
  • At the right level of depth?
  • In ways that are useful?
• Test for inter-rater reliability
• Report our findings
• Finalize the rubric for others to use

We want to hear from you!
What would be the most useful to learn from DMPs?
• Types of data being generated
• Standards / Formats being used
• Plans for sharing data
• Policies surrounding use of data
• Plans for archiving data

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Data management plans as A Research Tool
@DMPResearch

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