Research data management requirements:
- how can we collate experiences to benefit and better services?

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Angus Whyte & Anthony Beitz

Birds of a Feather session, International Digital Curation Conference, #IDCC15
Learning from collective experience

• What have we learned over the past ten years about gathering requirements?

• What approaches could be developed now to better understand user needs?

• What is needed to better connect local efforts to the larger curation community and vice-versa?

• Would it be worthwhile developing a shared ‘question bank’ that catalogues the questions that have been asked by theme, and links to related materials?
Translating requirements into RDM services

• What does experience with the discussed methods tell us about how they may be improved?

• Are more targeted explorations needed?

• Would it be worthwhile to create tools that explore specific service needs at key ‘intervention points’ in the data lifecycle?
Sharing collective experience

• How can we better communicate experience in identifying and assessing user needs to help others implement and deliver RDM services at research institutions?

• What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current approaches to sharing results?
RDM requirements throughout the lifecycle

Based on MANTRA data lifecycle
What do we need to help us appreciate the data production context?

Plan

Discover and Reuse

Create

Deposit and Publish

Use

Appraise

?
What kinds of tools and resource do we need?

To support dialogue about requirements and available solutions

present relevant questions

describe and analyse responses

translate requirements into solutions
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Data Asset Framework

context

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What kinds of tools and resource do we need?

To support dialogue about requirements and available solutions

present relevant questions

describe and analyse responses

translate requirements into solutions
What do we need more of?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RDM service’s awareness of requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>high</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>high</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed questions</td>
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<td>high</td>
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<td>Open ended questions</td>
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<td>low</td>
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<td>Shared vocab.</td>
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Data Asset Framework

• A methodology to ‘audit’ data holdings and investigate data management practice

• Created in a 6-month JISC project in 2008

• Used extensively in UK institutions to inform RDM policy and service development

Data Asset Framework

- Surveys/interviews with researchers and support staff
- Review policies & procedures
- Online surveys
- Asset forms (Dublin Core) used in online tool

## DAF strengths and weaknesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>No easy access to reusable examples or results</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flexible</td>
<td>Lacks support for continuous engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good take-up</td>
<td>Unbalanced coverage of specific service areas</td>
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## Question bank proposal

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No easy access to reusable examples or results</td>
<td>Provide repository of questions, instruments, results</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lacks support for continuous engagement</td>
<td>Identify questions appropriate for different data production stages and contexts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unbalanced coverage of specific service areas</td>
<td>Collate community experience</td>
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Bank of what kind of questions?

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Data producers’ awareness of solutions
Next Steps

• Want to collate more surveys, interviews, checklists, workflows
• Firm up the scope
• Test the use cases with e.g. Subject Librarians
• See us in the Research Data Spring!