When it was established in 2004, the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) was intended to be the UK’s national centre of expertise in digital curation and data management. It has since built a portfolio of services that enjoy international recognition. We are now offering a consultancy service, through which we give highly customised assistance to research organisations to help them deal with their data management requirements.

We can help you to:
- Analyse, assess, advance and assure institutional data capabilities.
- Develop policy, strategy and business cases to help you build institutional RDM services.
- Make informed choices between internal and external provision.
- Assess development opportunities and optimising advocacy channels.

Each engagement is highly tailored and defined in advance, and our input draws upon our considerable collective experience in these highly specialised areas.

Because digital material is fragile, you – and your stakeholders – will want to be assured that steps have been taken to prevent it from accidental loss. Our DRAMBORA methodology helps repository and data archive managers to develop a documented understanding of the risks they face, quantified in terms of probability and potential impact.

Trust is another increasingly sought-after commodity in the digital world. We can help your data archive achieve Data Seal of Approval (DSA) certification, identifying it as a trusted digital repository. Similarly, we can assess third-party storage services to ensure their suitability and compatibility with your funders’ expectations and internal business needs.

Before beginning a journey, it’s good to know where you’re starting from and where you need to get to. Our analysis services include a low-impact ‘healthcheck’ service (RISE), where we assess your institution’s current research data management readiness and prepare a short report with recommended next steps.

Another early stage activity is funder analysis and service prioritisation, wherein we carry out a detailed study of your external research funding over an agreed period of time, cross-referring with the data policies of your funders, and using the results to prioritise the ongoing development of the research data service using a tried and tested methodology.

Most of our services are targeted at advancement, leaving your RDM service in a demonstrably better position than before we came on board. We can help develop your institution’s RDM policy or shape your strategy or business case. You may also wish to bring us in to project manage a certain task, or build us into implementation plans as a resource.

We can help you raise awareness around good data and information management practice in all communities within your institution - frontline researchers, support/admin staff and senior management. We can also organise and run events to highlight the benefits of managing and sharing research data according to accepted best practice standards. We can also help you to develop online and printed content to boost the uptake of local support services, and run training events for staff and students.

Once your data management service is up and running, the DCC has methodologies and related tools (such as CARDIO) in place to help track progress, and assess options for future development.

We can perform workflow analysis, mapping current and future systems, identifying pressure points before they become a problem and deliver efficiencies across the organisation.

We aim to offer a world-class tailored service at a competitive price. For an informal preliminary conversation around your requirements, feel free to get in touch.

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