The 2016 DAF Survey

The 2016 Data Asset Framework (DAF) survey was run to inform development of the Jisc Research Data Shared Service (RDSS). The RDSS will enable researchers to easily deposit data for publication, discovery, safe storage, long term archiving and preservation. Among the aims of the RDSS are supporting researchers in sharing and re-using data and helping institutions to meet their policy requirements.

Running the 2016 DAF survey

1. Choice of topics
   We chose themes for the survey: active research data, data management plans, data security, backup and recovery, archiving, data sharing and institutional support.

2. Review of previous DAF surveys
   In April 2016, we analysed examples of previous DAF surveys to compile a comprehensive list of questions and answers.

3. Creation of the 2016 DAF survey
   The new DAF survey builds on previous work by the University of Glasgow and the Digital Curation Centre (DCC), updated for 2016.

4. Feedback from institutions
   In order to build a really useful tool, we liaised with HEIs to see what kind of information they really needed and how questions should be formulated.

5. Running the DAF survey
   Dissemination started in late June 2016 and continued until early August. We liaised with the six HEIs above to manage reminders and incentives.

6. Analysis and reporting
   We received 1,185 responses. The data was anonymised, made openly available, and used to prepare a report and a best practice toolkit.

Results of the survey

- **HEIs’ role**: 75% of respondents look first to their institution to preserve their data.
- **Advocacy**: Only 16% of respondents are currently accessing university RDM support services.
- **Public data**: >70% recognise that research is a public good and should be open to all.
- **Use of DMPs**: Only 40% of respondents have a Research Data Management plan.
- **Metadata**: Only 18% of respondents say they follow established metadata guidelines.
- **Sensitive data**: 41% of respondents have some form of sensitive data.

Most causes for loss of data:

- Hardware failure
- Human error
- Equipment stolen

Most likely locations for data storage:

- Hard drive of a computer owned by the University
- External hard drive or memory stick
- Hard drive of a privately owned computer
- University managed network storage
- Cloud service (Dropbox)

Most likely times to keep data:

- 1 - 5 yrs
- > 10 yrs
- I don’t know
- 5 - 10 yrs


Find out more about Jisc’s Research Data Shared Service at https://researchdata.jiscinvolve.org