Research Data Management: an institutional view

Simon Willmoth
Director of Research Management
Six Colleges of Art & Design in London:
Camberwell College of Arts
Central Saint Martin’s College of Arts and Design
Chelsea College of Art and Design
London College of Communication
London College of Fashion
Wimbledon College of Art

Specialist Art, Design, Communication

Research activity:
Practice-based research in art & design: fine art, fashion design, graphic design, textile design, photography, curation, book binding, performance, etc.
Text-based research: art & design history, Cultural Studies, literary studies, etc.
Carole Collet *Bio Lace* (http://www.carolecollet.com)
Research Data Management

1. Terminology – defining research data in art, design, communication
2. Benefits of research data management
3. Challenges/issues
4. UAL RDM policy
5. UAL policy implementation
6. UAL Researcher interviews- quotations

http://www.arts.ac.uk/research/
Defining research data in art, design, communication:

• ‘Research data’ is a term generally not used by art and design researchers;
• Abstract, general definitions do not engage researchers;
• The evidence base on which academic researchers build their analytic or other work;
• Research data can be considered anything created, captured or collected as an output of funded research work in its original state;
• Availability of research data for use by research community;
• Working definition to include a list of examples of materials that may be research data.

http://www.arts.ac.uk/research/
Helen Storey, *Field of Jeans* (http://www.helenstoreyfoundation.org/)
Benefits to the University

• Compliance with funding bodies;

• Increasing the impact and visibility of UAL research/public engagement;

• Improving the quality and sustainability of UAL research;

• Increasing the potential for collaborative research;

• Enhancing the reliability of research findings.
Importance of identifying the benefits of managing and storing research data to the researcher:

• Compliance with funder/ increased likelihood of external funding;
• Enhancing the dissemination of research – increased impact and visibility;
• Enhancing the research process – as data management integrated into process;
• Increasing contacts/ networks & potential for collaboration;
• Preserving and securing the research data;
• Understanding of data ownership.

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Draft storyboard/shooting script for [Lapdogs of the Bourgeoisie](#), imagining scenes, shots and dialogue. See the final film, read the script, a synopsis of the project, or my encounter with Egyptian police economy.
This is the Bikeoff Design Resource
A summary of 2 years’ research about bike theft and how to design against it.

About Bike Theft
- One bike is stolen every minute in the UK. Find out how
- It could be you! Bike theft victims tell their stories
- Years of research and over 200 references. The Bikeoff bibliography

Design Brief
- RSA Brief: The challenge and submission details

Design Responses
- Over 40 case studies of bike parking facilities worldwide
- New ideas for bike locks
- Europe’s Public Bike Hire Schemes reviewed
- Bike parking Furniture Innovation
- 25+ examples of cycling advocacy schemes

http://www.designagainstcrime.com
Challenges/issues:

- Resources (staffing, storage, time, etc.)
- Engaging researchers;
- Controlling the flood;
- Curating research data, including respecting the legal, ethical and commercial constraints on the release of data;
- Estimating data storage requirements;
- A research data storage repository;
- Enhancing access to stored data – metadata searching & a typology for practice-based art and design research data;
- Digital and physical data.

http://www.arts.ac.uk/research/
UAL Research Data Management Policy:

- Institutional requirement (KAPTUR and DCC);
- Policy approved October 2012;
- Ensure that the University supports researchers, meets its obligations to research funders, and commits to good research data management practice.
- Policy applies principally to staff involved in externally funded research projects;
- Consideration will also be given to storing data from legacy research projects which have particular value to the University.

http://www.arts.ac.uk/research/
UAL Research Data Management Policy - implementation:

- Senior Management engagement;
- Research Management Staffing responsibility: Research data and information manager;
- Key stakeholder engagement (researchers - see below, library and information services, IT services);
- Training: administrative support staff (research support, library, IT staff);

http://www.arts.ac.uk/research/
UAL Research Data Management Policy - implementation:

- Training: Academic researchers (Research managers, PGR students, Early Career Researchers, Project Principal Investigators & Co-Investigators);
- Research data management project plans, curating research data storage;
- Advocacy: RDM champions.
- Clear communication of the parameters of the RDM policy.

http://www.arts.ac.uk/research/
Linda Florence *Sugar Dance* (http://lindaflorence.me.uk)
Quotations 1:

1. I work on an Apple; I never work on a PC. My computer in fact is much, much too old so I am really struggling, because I need quite a large memory as I have large files. It’s a laptop but I’ve also got a larger screen attached to the laptop.

2. Well I think that the work that is made is evidence of the journey to the completed artwork. It is very important for me because it’s always live so that all the research I generate on one project goes on to inform the next project. So it’s kind of a continuous archive of imagery.

3. I try not to throw things out but I often cut things up to use as collage material. I can spend a whole month or two months on something then I just cut the whole thing up but it then gets recycled as something else. So it’s continual construction and deconstruction. Actually ordering is part of my own creative process, so the whole idea of archiving I think is really interesting.

4. When you put it like this there are three processes, there’s the preliminary research for the project which involves reading, context reading, which is not probably what would be understood as conventional academic research, there’s the project itself where you are actually testing ideas in rehearsals and then there’s a reflecting process. This can sometimes mean going back to the stuff you started working with and looking at it in a different way. That sounds quite linear but it isn’t always.
Quotations 2:

5. I keep a notebook. I have a website too. I used to think of a website as something where you display things and now increasingly I see it as a way of it recording the process, so I am using more like a Blog structure. But I am happy to post notes, photographs, drawings, observations and let other people see the process.

6. My sketch books tend to be a mish-mash between logging of rushes notes, detailing each shot, things that I read, things that I hear, books that I'm reading, so it will be a jumble of texts but they’ve all gone in to the making of a piece of work. I recently had an exhibition where I showed working notes towards the making of the film as part of the screening of it but I certainly don’t self-consciously keep notebooks as artworks in themselves. They have a very practical value for me in informing my thinking about the way I go about making the piece of work.

7. It’s quite interesting, I’ve started keeping my email exchanges with my collaborator, archiving them on a hard drive as that’s one of the main ways we communicate, I’ll send him detailed notes and maybe I’ll go and visit him once, twice a week, and we talk about ideas.
Lucy & Jorge Orta, *Cloud I Metéoros* (http://www.studio-orta.com)
The Stanley Kubrik Archive at UAL
900 linear metres. Includes production paperwork, letters, props, costumes, publicity materials, production photographs, research, photographs, plans, books, audiovisual material, equipment and press cuttings.

http://www.arts.ac.uk/research/
http://charlottehodes.com

http://www.carolecollet.com

http://lindaflorence.me.uk

http://www.neilcummings.com

http://www.robkesseler.co.uk

http://www.tomhunter.org

http://www.arts.ac.uk/research/