Exercise 2: How to support researchers with data management planning

Read the short case studies and discuss the merits of each approach

- Which approach do you favour?

- What may be feasible to implement at your institution?

- Are there other types of support you would consider providing?

Guidance & training at the University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh provides guidance webpages on research data management.[1] The data management planning page outlines what a DMP is and the kind of information that should be included. A checklist is also provided to help researchers make sure they've considered and addressed all the necessary aspects.

Online training materials were also provided through the MANTRA project.[2] The data management plans module outlines funder requirements and other reasons to develop a DMP. It gives practical guidance though videos, exercises and a satirical example plan!

[1] www.ed.ac.uk/is/data-management
[2] http://datalib.edina.ac.uk/mantra

DMP Online & the DMP Tool

The DCC provides DMP Online[3] to assist researchers to produce data management plans. It has a several templates to meet the specific requirements of key research funders. Associated guidance is provided and can be tailored to meet disciplinary and institutional needs. Plans can be exported in a number of formats for inclusion in grant applications or reports.

The US DMP Tool[4] has been customised to various institutional contexts. The guidance points to local contacts for advice, and in some cases suggested text is provided that details what level of service is provided by an institution.

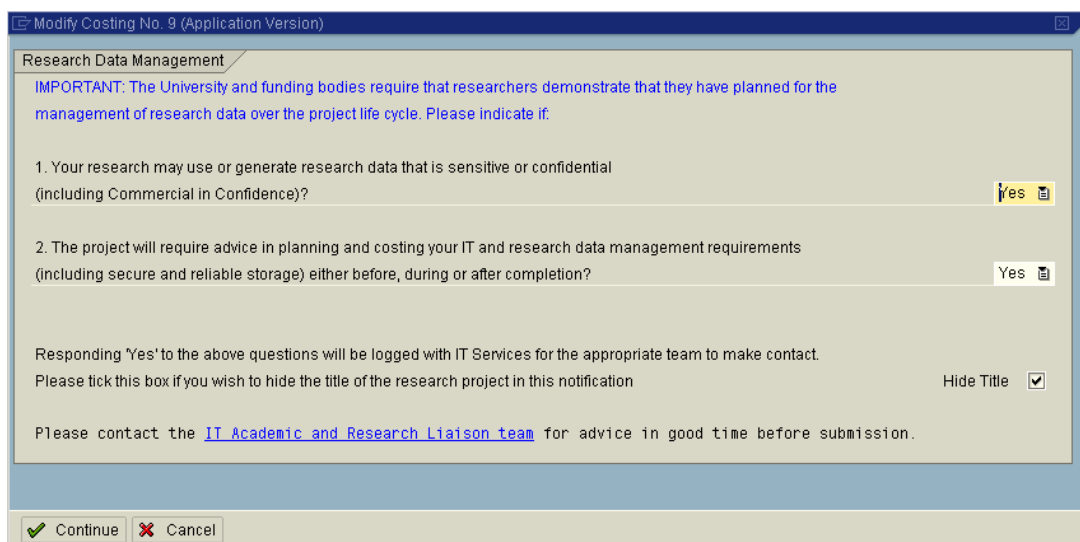[3] https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk
[4] https://dmp.cdlib.org

Embedding data management into grant application processes at Leicester

The University of Leicester has embedded aspects of data management planning into its grants application system to assist with resource planning.[5] Researchers are asked to check boxes if they are planning to generate or use sensitive research data and/or if they require assistance in planning and costing for research data management (including storage and collaboration).

These flags alert relevant service providers to offer advice and ensure plans are appropriate. It also allows additional resources to be costed into grant proposals and maps requirements across the institute which makes the case for internal institutional investment.

Consultation at Monash University, Australia

Monash University Library has a Data Management Coordinator, who works with subject librarians to provide consultations, advice and referrals. Consultations are often jointly undertaken with staff from the Monash eResearch Centre, who coordinate access to data storage and a range of technical solutions for organising, documenting and sharing data.

A data planning checklist for Higher Degree by Research students is used by the Library as the basis for 2-hour training seminars and one-on-one consultations.[6] The checklist is used

as a self-assessment and communications tool, and provides links to key resources and contacts for follow-up. Some kind of data plan may be included in the confirmation of candidature process in future.

In 2012-13, a more formal data planning process is likely to be trialled with the recipients of new grants from the Australian Research Council (ARC). Australia's two major research funders - the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council - encourage data sharing but do not mandate data plans as part of the funding application process. In this context, institutional data planning consultations are most likely to take place post-award, within a similar timeframe to the production of collaboration agreements and human ethics approvals.

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[5] http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/itservices/about/news/old-news/2010/July/lucre-08-07-10
[6] http://www.researchdata.monash.edu.au/resources/datahdrchecklist.doc