“Our contact was helpful and knowledgeable in guiding us through how the service should be designed. Our working relationship was great, and the service offered good value for money.”

Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

“We had an enjoyable and informative course on managing open science with DCC. We got presented a lot of excellent material and helpful exercises.”

The European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC), Italy

Get in touch

Email us on info@dcc.ac.uk

Call us on (+44) (0)131 651 1239

Follow us on @digitalcuration

Visit our website dcc.ac.uk

Consultancy Services

Benefit from the experience of a world-leading centre of expertise
How we can help you

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 evaluate their data management requirements.

What we can do
• Analyse, assess, advance and assure institutional data capabilities.
• Develop policy, strategy and business cases to help you build institutional Research Data Management (RDM) services.
• Make informed choices between internal and external provision.
• Assess development opportunities and optimise 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.

Please get in touch with us for an informal conversation on your requirements.

The development lifecycle

Analyse
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. We carry out a detailed study of your external research funding over an agreed period of time, cross-referring it with the data policies of your funders, and use the results to prioritise the ongoing development of your research data service.

Advance
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 you 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 your 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/administrative staff and senior management.

We can 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.

Assess
Once your data management service is up and running, the DCC has methodologies and related tools in place (such as CARDIO) 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.

Assure
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.

Many of our products and services are available both ‘out-of-the-box’ and as bespoke, tailored versions. Our staff will be happy to discuss your requirements and suggest different options based on your particular circumstances, so get in touch if you have a potential project that you’d like to discuss with us.