



RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT FORUM

RDMF11: Workflows and Lifecycle Models for Data Management

University of Westminster (Cavendish Campus), London, Friday 20 June 2014

Background

The increasing obligation to manage and share data in an active way is to the majority of scholars a relatively new (and not always welcome) facet of their roles. Research data managers and support teams may therefore find benefit in tailoring the assistance, tools and guidance they offer their researchers in ways that synchronise smoothly with existing working practices. Furthermore, from a quality and transparency standpoint, workflows and lifecycle models can serve to standardise research processes, underpinning the openness and reproducibility of scholarship. But these goals vary in relevance and importance across the spectrum of academic disciplines, and what works well in one institutional context might not translate quite so well into another...

This one-day event will provide an opportunity to hear from experts in different stages of the scholarly research, publication and long-term data management lifecycle, as well as a forum for more detailed discussion of specific areas of interest to the event's participants. It will appeal to a broad audience, spanning researchers; staff from library, information and research organisations; repository managers and administrators; data curators, data centre managers and other data professionals; funding organisations and research networks.

Questions and themes that the event might seek to address include...

- Who uses workflows and lifecycle models, and for what purpose?
- What do they look like / what are their components? (e.g. software, hardware, human actors)
- What are their major benefits (e.g. quality, reproducibility, efficiency, trust)?
- Relationship between research workflows and preservation/curation workflows (e.g. OAIS: are there disciplinary / community differences to take into consideration?)
- Preservation and re-use: what is necessary to enable confident re-use of workflows?
- The uses of workflows in managing compliance and reporting
- The research lifecycle as a component of the larger data lifecycle? Or vice versa?
- Managing data during the study lifecycle, particularly the data collection/processing stages)

Registration

Delegate numbers are limited to fifty, so early registration is recommended. Please see the event homepage for more information: <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/research-data-management-forum-rdmf/rdmf11>

Agenda

See following page.

Contd.

Draft agenda (N.B. all speakers are confirmed, but some titles still TBC)

Time	Session	Speaker/ facilitator
10.00	Registration / tea & coffee	
10.15	Keynote – “The Beauty of Models... and Workflows, or, Methods Matter and the Matter with Methods”	Professor Carole Goble (Taverna and myExperiment, University of Manchester)
11.00	Q&A – establish what we want to explore / achieve with the event, decide on breakout topics and identify session leaders	Martin Donnelly, Digital Curation Centre (chair)
11.30	Presentation – “Mapping Lifecycle Models to the University – in Theory and in Practice”	Dr James A. J. Wilson, University of Oxford
11.55	Presentation – “Relating the Research Workflow and the Publications Workflow”	Wendy White (Head of Scholarly Communication and Head of Faculty Library Services, Social and Human Sciences, University of Southampton)
12.20	Presentation – “Workflows and Lifecycles: The Long-Term View from a National Data Centre”	Hervé L’Hours (Preservation Planning Manager, UK Data Archive)
12.45	Lunch (provided)	
13.40	Presentation – “Incorporating Data Publication in the RDM Lifecycle”	Caroline Wilkinson, Ubiquity Press
14.00	Break out session 1	Topics and chairs to be determined on the day
14.45	Break out session 2	
15.30	Report back from groups and agree next steps	Martin Donnelly, Digital Curation Centre (chair)
16.00	Ends	

Breakout groups

In response to feedback from previous events, there will be three breakout groups, and delegates will have the opportunity to attend any two of these, or stay in the same group for both sessions if they prefer.

Potential topics:

- Workflow tools;
- Blending multiple approaches;
- How can we introduce RDM into researchers’ workflows and save them time/effort?
- What infrastructure is needed to keep workflows reproducible?
- What makes for a good, shareable workflow?
- (Mapping data and research lifecycles (What RDM tasks are associated with each stage of the research lifecycle? What information/metadata needs to be recorded when?))

Suggested reading

- Carole Goble (2007) “Curating Services and Workflows: the Good, the Bad and the Downright Ugly”. Keynote address at the 3rd International Digital Curation Conference. Slides: http://www.dcc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/events/dcc-2007/presentations/Carol_Goble_0840-0940.ppt
- Mark L. Brown and Wendy White (2014) “Case Study 2: University of Southampton – a partnership approach to research data management”, in Pryor, Jones and Whyte (eds.) *Delivering Research Data Management Services*, London: Facet. Full text: <http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/356247/>