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# Data Management Skills Support Initiative (DaMSSI)

This work jointly funded by the Research Information Network (RIN)  
and Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)



JISC

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## The Data Management Skills Support Initiative ('DaMSSI')

- JISC Managing Research Data programme (04/2010 call)
- JISC Research Data Management Training Materials ('RDMTrain') strand – support project
- 5 RDMTrain projects – postgraduate training materials – 6 disciplines:
  - 'CAiRO' at Bristol (creative and performing arts)
  - 'MANTRA' at Edinburgh (social and political science, clinical psychology and geosciences)
  - 'DATUM for Health' at Northumbria (health studies)
  - 'DMTpsych' at York (psychological sciences)
  - 'DataTrain' at Cambridge (social anthropology and archaeology).



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## Background

- Research data management skills not currently widely embedded in UK postgraduate training
- Agreement needed on what constitutes a basic set of postgraduate data management skills
  - Consistent descriptions of skills
  - Framework that supports progression of skills over time
- Two recently developed models may be able to help:
  - Vitae's Researcher Development Framework
  - 'Research lens' for SCONUL's Seven Pillars model



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## Key work areas

- Support for RDMTrain projects
- Mapping of projects' training materials
- Comparison / synthesis of mappings from the projects
- Recommendations for Vitae and SCONUL
- Career profiles
- Recommendations for professional bodies and LIS course providers



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## Findings

- Usefulness of discipline-specific definitions, examples and exercises;
- Students like DMPs – with discipline-specific interpretation;
- Data management / information-handling language a barrier for researchers;
- Balance needed: discipline-specific detail / brief and concise training;
- Timing matters: early (but not too early); embedding helps;
- Face-to-face delivery popular;
- Benefits of RDM must be foregrounded.

Refined into 19 recommendations: in project report.



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## Achievements

- Researcher career development models will incorporate data management skills
- Value of generic and discipline-specific data management skills in successful training is established
- Engagement with professional bodies

## Future activities

- Engagement with professional bodies
- RIN Information-Handling Working Group
- Digital Curation Centre
- DPOE and DigCurV



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DaMSSI recommendations and career profiles available online at:

Digital Curation Centre:

<http://tinyurl.com/DaMSSI-DCC>

Research Information Network:

<http://tinyurl.com/DaMSSI-RIN>

Thank you for listening!

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