DMPonline: a tool for writing Data Management Plans

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DMPonline is a web-based tool to help researchers write Data Management Plans. It was launched in April 2010 and has since had lots of new features added. Researchers can write plans to meet specific funder requirements, and institutions can customise the tool by adding tailored guidance and example answers. Plans can be shared to enable collaborative editing and development of good data management practice.

The DCC has worked closely with research funders and universities to produce a tool that assists researchers to produce an effective data management plan (DMP) to cater for the whole lifecycle of a project, from bid-preparation stage through to completion.

Features of DMPonline

- Create plans based on the requirements of a funder and / or institution
- View custom guidance from funders, institutions and the DCC
- Read example and suggested answers to get a sense of what to write
- Share the DMP to invite others to read or contribute to it
- Track progress as the plan develops to make sure it meets any formatting restrictions
- Download the plan in various formats e.g. docx, pdf, csv, xml, json
- Choose which sections to export and set the formatting options
- Sign in using institutional credentials

Customising DMPonline

The administrative interface allows institutions to customise the tool in a number of ways. They can:

- Create their own template
- Provide custom guidance to profile local support services
- Add optional guidance, tailored to specific colleges / schools / departments
- Share example or suggested answers
- Add additional questions to funder templates
- Monitor usage of the tool to inform local support provision
- Translate the tool to provide a foreign-language version

Institutions can customise the DCC-hosted version of the tool or download the open source code from GitHub and install their own instance if preferred.

“...We came across the DMPonline tool, which provides exactly what we need. We were very pleased to see that you open-sourced it.”
Thilo Paul-Stueve, Kiel University

“I just found out about DMPonline and I am impressed by the way it works for creating and sharing DMPs”
Abdul Minhas, University of Surrey

“The DMPonline tool has become very nice indeed and useful, and we are using it for a project now.”
Hallgeir Jonvik, University College London

DMPonline has been developed by the Digital Curation Centre to help you create data management plans
http://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk