

IDCC 2015, London
10th February, 2015

The 2014 DAF survey at the University of Sheffield

Andrew Cox, a.m.cox@sheffield.ac.uk &

Laurian Williamson, Laurian.Williamson@nottingham.ac.uk



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University of Sheffield: 2013 quick facts

- Founded in 1879
- Russell Group research-intensive
- 50 academic departments in 5 faculties
- 82 research centres and institutes
- 11 services for industry and commerce
- Substantial research portfolio



University of Sheffield - 2013 RDM maturity

- **Internal** RDM pathfinder project (2011/2012)
- Institutional **RDM policy** in place (2012)
- **DCC** Institutional Engagement (2013)
- Jisc funding for **RDMRose** (2013)
- Appointment of **Research Data Manager** (2013)
- Member of **N8 RDM Directors' Group** (2013 – 2015)

Value of an organisational survey

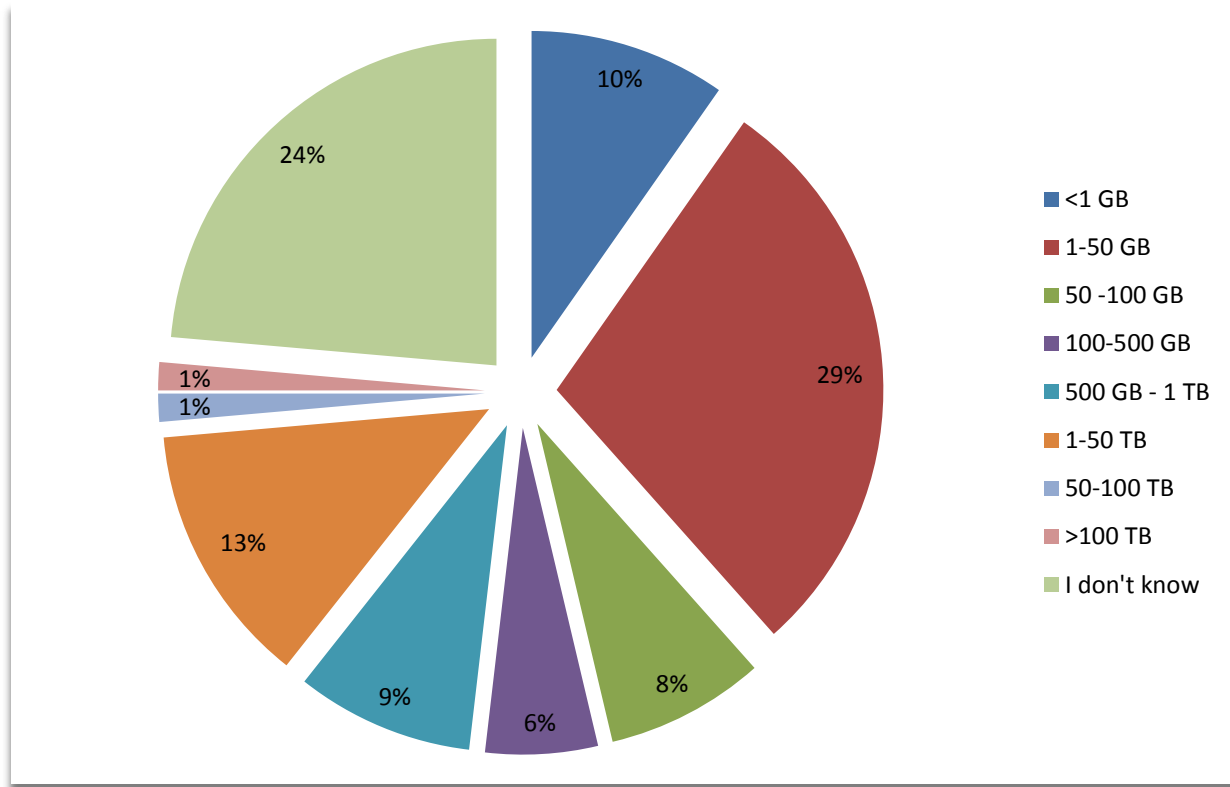
- Vital information about what researchers think and are doing
 - How much data they have; how often they back things up
 - Awareness of policy
 - Attitudes to data sharing; training
- Identify people and groups who are pathfinders or problem areas
- First step in raising awareness and making contacts
- Valuable material for advocacy at a strategic level: research leaders do not know about the practices in their areas
- Benchmark against comparable institutions

FINDINGS

The survey at Sheffield

- Conducted January 2014, using limesurvey
- Targeted outreach plan (research community and professional services key stakeholders)
- c430 completed responses
- Patchy response rate
 - 8% overall
 - 20% staff in FMDH

Volume of research data respondents were expecting to create during their current research activities



Awareness of data policy

- Sheffield RDM policy published July 2012
- Survey in January 2014 found 33% were aware
- 38% of all respondents said they were aware of their Funders' requirements; 47% said they were not aware.

Attitudes to data sharing

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	All those agreeing	All those actively disagreeing	Tenopir et al. (2010) – strongly agree
I would use other researchers' datasets if their datasets were easily accessible.	23%	41%	64%	14%	43%
I would be willing to place at least some of my data into a central data repository with no restrictions.	19%	37%	56%	22%	42%
I would be willing to place all of my data into a central data repository with no restrictions.	4%	17%	21%	59%	15%
I would be willing to share data across a broad group of researchers.	19%	43%	62%	13%	37%
It is important that my data is cited when used by other researchers	64%	23%	87%	4%	69%

Training needs

Training subject area	Might be interested	Definitely interested	Total with any interest
Storing your research data	36%	36%	72%
Developing a research data management plan	44%	30%	74%
Copyright and Intellectual Property	40%	30%	70%
Documenting your research	43%	29%	72%
Citing your research data	38%	28%	66%
Sharing your research data	46%	25%	71%
Funders requirements and RDM	46%	21%	68% (after rounding)
Creating metadata for research data	36%	21%	57%
Ethics and consent	35%	19%	54%

Survey results – a valuable engagement tool

Examples of user engagement as a result of survey implementation and results:

- Bite-size learning (ScHARR)
- Researcher writing groups (A&H)
- Doctoral Development Programme sessions
- Research ethics event
- Data interviews and Data Management Plan reviews
- Big data and HPC research groups and activities

Survey results – a valuable engagement tool

Examples of professional services engagement

- Presentations to PVC-Research and Faculty Directors of Research & Innovation
- Presentations to research groups and research committees
- Information and research data security collaboration
- Co-delivery of training with research staff development

PROBLEMS OF COMPARISON

A comment on DAF surveys: Read with caution

- Obstacles to comparability across surveys
 - Usual provisos about survey data: e.g. representativeness of those responding of the total population
 - Variations in questions asked
 - Many previous surveys have not published their data
 - None have published response rates, by seniority/faculty
 - Institutional differences