Creating a Community of Data Champions

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Who are the Data Champions and why were they needed?

Data Champions as a Community of Practice

Activities so far and the risks of the project

Available as a preprint: https://doi.org/10.1101/104661
Building on a community
The Problem(s)

- High demand for training
- Need to raise awareness of RDM across the research community
- Wide variety of disciplines to serve
- Limited resources
Data Champions

Researchers, PhD students or support staff who have agreed to advocate for good data management and sharing practice within their department.
Call for participants

Mailing lists
Social media
Newsletters
Networks
Administrators
Targeting individuals…
Who are the Data Champions?

- 41 Champions
- 26 departments
- 5 Schools
Who are the Data Champions?

- 46%: Post-doctoral researcher
- 25%: PhD student
- 18%: Other staff member
- 11%: Lecturer or a Principal Investigator
Welcoming our Data Champions

RDM workshop for STEM researchers: http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.239090
“groups of people who share...a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge...in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis”

(Wenger, McDermott & Snyder, 2002)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central support providing legitimacy</th>
<th>Centrally instigated – Champions ‘applied’</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researcher-led</td>
<td>Service provision as part of role</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group defining the “domain”</td>
<td>Initial “practices” provided to the group</td>
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</tbody>
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Developing the Data Champion Community
Risks – participation without training

- Information sessions
- Weekly ‘tips’ emails
- Talks to research groups
- A training needs analysis for the department
- A sub-group being formed in Engineering
- Advertising via departmental newsletters
- Open data FAQs for chemists
- ORCiD drop-in sessions…
Risks – insufficient rewards
Risks – resourcing
Measuring value in a community
Creating a Community of Data Champions

- Our Data Champions are:
  - Developing discipline-specific RDM knowledge
  - Improving knowledge exchange across the University
  - Increasing the amount of RDM advocacy taking place

- The success of the project will depend on sufficient rewards for participants and resourcing

- They are a nascent Community of Practice which requires further nurturing
Thank you

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https://unlockingresearch.blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/

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