Is democracy the right system?
Building an engaged RDM community

Dr Marta Teperek
Office of Scholarly Communication, University of Cambridge
mt446@cam.ac.uk

@martateperek

21 February 2017, Edinburgh, International Digital Curation Conference
Pre-print of the conference paper is available

New Results

Is Democracy the Right System? Collaborative Approaches to Building an Engaged RDM Community

ID Marta Teperek, ID Rosie Higman, ID Danny Kingsley

doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/103895

https://doi.org/10.1101/103895

All images are under CC0, unless indicated otherwise
Background to Cambridge

• 18,000 students; 9,000 staff

• 6 Schools:
  • Arts and Humanities
  • Biological Sciences
  • Clinical Medicine
  • Humanities and Social Sciences
  • Physical Sciences
  • Technology

• 150 Departments and Institutes, 31 colleges

• Fragmented support services
Convincing researchers to share their data

You **must** do it!

*Policy compliance*
Most researchers were not impressed...

Immediate reaction:

- This is not my priority
- Why would I do that?
- People will steal my results!
- Data management is a waste of time
- Nobody will understand my data
- It would take me 5 years to find all my data!
Alternative approach

• Understanding and acknowledging problems:
  – Data Asset Framework survey (440 responses)
    • https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3796305.v4
  
• Talking about the benefits of data sharing
  – Intrinsic motivations
  
• Working collaboratively to develop RDM services

https://doi.org/10.1101/103895
Alternative approach

• Understanding and acknowledging problems:
  – Data Asset Framework survey (440 responses)
    • https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3796305.v4

• Talking about the benefits of data sharing
  – Intrinsic motivations

• Working collaboratively to develop RDM services

https://doi.org/10.1101/103895
Examples of collaborative approaches

- Training needs: Data Champions initiative
  - Will be discussed by the next speaker
  - https://doi.org/10.1101/104661

- RDM service development:
  RDM Project Group

- Understanding the problems:
  Open Research Pilot Project
RDM Project Group – open call for members

40 applications received, from across the University

- Researchers
- Contracts and grants office
- Research strategy office
- Cambridge University Press
- Librarians
- IT people
- Ethics officer
- Compliance officer

Different areas of expertise Stakeholder representation
Members identified themselves what to work on
How the Group works?

- Terms of Reference – written jointly
- Collaborative agendas and minutes

4 working groups:
- Training and support
- Personal/sensitive data
- Preservation
- Systems integration
How the Group works?

- Terms of Reference – written jointly
- Collaborative agendas and minutes

4 working groups:
- Training and support
- Personal/sensitive data
- Preservation
- Systems integration

Working groups report on their progress during Project Group meetings every 2 months.
Welcome to the Unlocking Research blog

This blog is maintained by the Office of Scholarly Communication based in the University of Cambridge Library and the University Research Office. Blogs cover many topics: Scholarly communication, Open Research, Open Access, Research Data Management and Library & training matters

Scholarly communication

Open Research

Open Access

Research Data Management

Library and training matters

https://unlockingresearch.blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?page_id=2
Open Research Pilot Project

What is it?
- Collaboration with the Wellcome Trust
- 2 year experiment
- Looking at problems with sharing and solutions to address them

We are going Open!
At the end of 2016 the Office of Scholarly Communication joined forces with the Open Research Team at the Wellcome Trust to launch a pilot scheme looking at the benefits and barriers to conducting open research. The pilot project looks at:

- the support research groups need in order to make all aspects of their research open,
- why they want to do this,
- how it benefits them,
- how it improves the research process
- what barriers there might be that prevent the sharing of their research.

Support will be provided to the groups from the Office of Scholarly Communication, Betty and Gordon Moore Library and the Wellcome Trust who will aim to help facilitate the sharing of research. The pilot will run for two years from January 2017 and we aim to share all our experiences of open research.

Who are the participants?
Four research groups:
- Patient data
- Computational analyses
- Big imaging data
- Complex visualisation platforms

The Groups
Four groups were selected to participate in the pilot.
- Dr Marta Costa and Dr Greg Jefferis (and others), researchers leading the work on two collaborative projects, which will create interactive tools to interrogate Drosophila

http://osc.cam.ac.uk/open-research/open-research-pilot-project
Did it work?

Number of data deposits/year

- 2008: 0
- 2009: 0
- 2010: 0
- 2011: 0
- 2012: 0
- 2013: 0
- 2014: 0
- 2015: 400
- 2016: 450
- 2017: 10
Behavioural change in sharing

- Researchers used to panic and share their data at the last minute (compliance requirements)
- More and more frequently:
  - Data shared before publication – access for peer-reviewers
  - Placeholder requests for data in preparation
  - Richer metadata (new fields needed!)
- Data sharing seems to be more and more ‘the normal thing’
Was it worth it?

Time to reflect...
## Is democracy the right system?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top-down, policy-driven approach</strong></td>
<td>• Fast service delivery</td>
<td>• Risk of solutions misaligned with user needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cost-effective</td>
<td>• Risk of academic community disengagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bottom-up, researcher-led, democratic approach</strong></td>
<td>• Community engagement</td>
<td>• Time consuming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Services aligned with the user needs</td>
<td>• Resource intensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Trust between service providers and end users</td>
<td>• Require careful planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Very rewarding</td>
<td>• Risk of senior management disengagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

Questions: mt446@cam.ac.uk

@martateperek
@CamOpenData

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

Manuscript: https://doi.org/10.1101/103895