Data management: engaging researchers and crossing disciplines

Experiences @ UK Data Archive

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UK Data Archive
Research Data Management Support Services

IASSIST 2010, Ithaca
Team effort

Research Data Management Support Team @ UK Data Archive:

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What we do

Data management support for researchers
• Advice and guidance
• Training workshops
• Meetings / discussions with researchers
• Review data management plans

UK Data Archive: data preservation and access infrastructure

Identify researchers’ data management needs:
• Problems arising at data deposit stage
• Data management plans
• Data sharing survey
What we do

• Data management planning
  – Rural Economy and Land Use programme (Relu-DSS), 2004-2011
  – Data Management Planning for ESRC Centres and Programmes, 2010-2011

• Data management training workshops
  – Data Management and Sharing Training Programme for social scientists (ESRC Researcher Development Initiative)

www.data-archive.ac.uk/sharing/projects.asp
www.data-archive.ac.uk/relu/
Evaluate Data Management Planning experiences
Rural Economy and Land use programme

- Interdisciplinary research programme (2004-2011): social, environmental, biological sciences
- Funding: ESRC, NERC, BBSRC
- Programme data sharing policy:
  - data well managed by researchers
    - project data management plans
    - Relu funds data management support: Relu Data Support Service (Relu-DSS)
  - data archived at the UK Data Archive and Environmental Information Data Centre (EIDC): Research Council funded infrastructure for preserving and sharing data
Relu data management plans

Data management plan at start of each research project, after funding awarded:

- need for access to existing data sources
- datasets planned to be produced
- planned quality assurance and back-up procedures for data
- plans for management and archiving of collected data
- expected difficulties in making data available for re-use
- measures to overcome such difficulties
- who holds copyright and intellectual property rights of data
- data management roles and responsibilities
Relu Data Support Service

- Review data management plans – sign off, give advice, request re-write
- Data management information for award holders and grant applicants
- Online guidance on RELU-DSS website and UKDA website
- Managing and Sharing Data - a best practice guide for researchers
- Training workshops for researchers
- Project visits to discuss data sharing and management in detail

http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/sharing
Success of data management planning? Relu-DSS view

• Data formats, back-up, storage procedures OK
• Expected difficulties to archive and share data often underestimated, esp. for confidential, commercial or sensitive data
• If difficulties anticipated (ethical / legal), only few suggest solutions
• Failure to gain consent for data sharing, not willingly, but due to unawareness
• Support service needs to give clear and specific advice that researchers understand
• DMP is not necessarily implemented
Data management challenges

• Data confidentiality and how to archive and share such data:
  – Consent for data sharing
  – Anonymising data
  – Access regulation to data

• Describing and documenting data for re-use

• Data copyright

• Finding time!
Success of data management planning? Researchers’ view

- DMP makes researchers think about and discuss data issues within their project team
- Face-to-face meetings to discuss project-specific data issues and allow Q&A very useful
- Practical advice wanted to be able to plan DM
- DMP needs clear examples / instructions
- Training workshops essential
Discussion points

- DMP at award application stage or at start of research?
- How ensure data management plan is implemented
- How ensure all researchers in a team are informed / aware?
- Roles for researchers, research support, research funders, data archives?
What next?

Apply experiences to develop data management planning strategies for ESRC research centres and programmes:

– audit data management practices
– help develop data management planning strategy
– implement DMP strategy and monitor
– training

Collaborating:

– New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) programme
– Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC)
– Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics (Innogen)
– Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC)
Training workshops, learning materials, best practice guidance

- why and how to share research data
- ethics, consent and confidentiality when sharing research data
- data copyright and the use of existing data resources
- data description, contextualisation and documentation
- data formats and software
- data storage, back-up and security

www.data-archive.ac.uk/sharing/dmstraining.asp

www.data-archive.ac.uk/sharing