



Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research

Library training, support and guidance in RDM

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**Open access and research data management:**

**Horizon 2020 and beyond**

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# Today's session

- Introduction and background
- Loughborough University scenario
- University of Exeter scenario
- Training
- Support and guidance
- Example materials



# Introduction and background

- Recently appointed as Research Data Manager at Loughborough – previously at Exeter (in a RDM role since 2011)
- Research background:
  - PhD in Maritime History (Exeter, 2008)
- Similarities between both Institutions
- Need to identify:
  - Why you are providing the training, guidance and support
  - Who the training is aimed at
  - How to promote the training
  - What does successful training look like



# Loughborough University

- Led by funder requirements BUT also seen as promoting the research of the University
- Inter-departmental - [Library](#), [IT](#), [Research Office](#)
- Aimed at:
  - PGRs
  - Researchers (Post-docs, Research Fellows etc.)
  - Academics (Lecturers, Professors etc.)
- Promotion:
  - Used existing groups - e.g. [Research Staff Association](#)
  - Used existing programmes - e.g. [Post-graduate development](#)
  - Social media - e.g. [blog](#)
  - Contacting EPSRC grant holders
- Success is an increased awareness of the advantages that good RDM can bring to an individual or group's research.

# University of Exeter

- Led by funder requirements
  - Jisc funded project under the [JiscMRD Programme](#) (archived webpage)
- Inter-departmental - [Library](#), [IT](#), [Research Office](#)
- Aimed at:
  - PGRs
  - Research active staff
- Promotion
  - Used existing training programmes - e.g. [Researcher Development Programme](#)
  - Social media - e.g. [Twitter](#)
  - Contacted new RCUK funded researchers
- Success was an increased awareness of funder policy/expectations as well as awareness of good RDM principles

# Requirements gathering and preparation

- Loughborough:
  - Survey of data requirements across the University
  - Training by DCC staff of the Academic Librarians
  - A Loughborough researcher spoke to the Academic Librarians about their data issues and needs
  - (More recently) A day in the Life of a Researcher session for Library staff (included sections on data management)
- Exeter:
  - Survey of College-level Computer Development Officers of data storage and archiving needs
  - Modified Data Asset Framework (DAF) (results available at <http://hdl.handle.net/10036/3689>) inc. interviews with academics
  - Training sessions organised, and led, by DCC and UKDS staff
  - Creation of research group level RDM policies e.g. <http://hdl.handle.net/10871/12107>

# Policy

- Loughborough (draft): <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/service/research/offcampus/docs/ResearchDataManagementPolicy-Draft.pdf> - The University will provide access to training, support, advice and, where appropriate, guidelines and templates for research data management and research data management plans.
- Exeter: <http://hdl.handle.net/10036/4280> - The University is responsible for the provision of training, support and advice on Open Access and research data management as well as the provision of a backed-up storage service for completed digital research data and for Open Access research papers.

N.B. Both state “The University...” not “The Library...”.

N.B. Both Institutions consulted academics/researchers during the formulation of the policy.

# Types of training

- Both Institutions use similar training methods:
  - “Large” sessions aimed at a particular type of researcher e.g. PGR or post-doc
  - Presentations at institution-wide events, e.g. Research Staff Association (LU) or Research Focus Week (UoE)
  - Presentations to research groups, departmental staff meetings etc.
  - Web based materials
  - VLE - “Research Central” module (LU only - not just RDM)
  - Utilised existing strands of expertise e.g. [Digital Curation Centre](#) (DCC), [UK Data Service](#) (UKDS)
- Loughborough also conducted an internal webinar on open access

# Contents of training sessions

- What is RDM
- Benefits of RDM
- How to write a data management plan
- Data storage
- Data backup
- Data sharing
- Re-use of data

N.B. Training sessions/programmes (should) cover the whole data lifecycle

# Support and Guidance - who

- Loughborough:
  - Research Office
  - Library
    - Research Data Manager (recently appointed - March 2015)
    - Academic Librarians
  - IT staff
  - Institutional Repository Managers (as mitigation for Research Data Manager being off/leaving)
  - Generic email address (but with a named person)
- Exeter:
  - Research Office
  - Academic College research support
  - Library
    - Open Access and Data Curation staff
    - Subject Librarians
  - IT staff
  - Generic email address (but with named people)

# Support and Guidance - what

- Loughborough
  - Loughborough specific guidance on [DMPonline](#)
  - Pilot data repository service (Library, IT and academic schools)
    - Using [figshare](#), [Arkivum](#) and [Symplectic Elements](#)
  - Copyright officer based in Library
- Exeter
  - Advised on draft data management plans
  - One-stop-shop website inc. [funder specific guides for DMPs](#)
  - [RDM Survival Guide](#) - written by PGRs for PGRs
  - "[Puzzled by Research Data Management?](#)" leaflet
  - Advised and supported data deposit to [Institutional Repository](#) and external data centres (e.g. UKDS for ESRC funded research)
  - Copyright officer based in the Library

# Potential issues

- Sustainability
  - Project vs service
- Danger of creating silos
  - What if the RDM expert(s) leave
- Engagement
  - Research community
  - Senior management
  - Peers
- Resource
  - What to focus on - training, advising on DMPs, assisting with data deposits etc.

# Lessons learnt

- Work collaboratively across the institution - Library, IT, Research Office, research active staff
- Don't re-invent the wheel if you don't have to - reuse pre-existing material if it's available
- Talk to others doing a similar role at other Institutions
- Don't be afraid to say "I'm not sure, can I get back to you" in training sessions
- Share resources across Institutions if possible or practicable
- Identify "friendly" academic contacts who can act as champions or supporters



# Example materials

- Loughborough

- Website:

- <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/library/research/experiment/>

- Most training materials are on the VLE so not accessible for external users ([ResearchCentral](#)). Loughborough is happy to share its training materials on request and they can be reused with acknowledgement.

- Loughborough guidance on [DMPonline](#)

- Exeter

- Website: <http://as.exeter.ac.uk/library/resources/rdm/>

- Funder specific DMP guidance:

- <http://as.exeter.ac.uk/library/resources/rdm/create/datamanagementplans/funderguidance/>

- Example RDP session: How to Organise your Files -

- <http://hdl.handle.net/10036/4269>

# Any Questions?

- Contact Gareth Cole
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- Generic email: [rdm@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:rdm@lboro.ac.uk)
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/@DrGarethCole>

Article in Aliss Quarterly: “University of Exeter research data management and open access training for staff” - <https://dspace.lboro.ac.uk/2134/16964>



# Open access and research data management: Horizon 2020 and beyond

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