

# Research data management: tools and resources

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**JISC**

Virtual Infrastructure with  
Database as a Service (VIDaaS)



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# Research data management

- Covers a range of aspects of research:
  - Organizing, structuring, and storing material
  - Documentation and preparing data for sharing
  - What happens to the data after the project?
- Somewhat neglected until recently
- But the last few years have seen a flurry of projects – in Oxford and elsewhere

# Recent data management initiatives

- JISC Managing Research Data Programme (JISCMRD)
  - A five-stranded programme covering infrastructure, planning, support and tools, citing and linking data, and training
- UMF Shared Services and the Cloud Programme
  - Intended to develop shared IT infrastructure, plus data management tools and applications
- Full details on JISC's website: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/>

# Data management tools

- Various tools are in development
  - DCC's DMP Online
  - DataFlow tools: DataStage (local data management file system) and DataBank (data repository) for the life sciences
  - DaaS – Database as a Service

# Data management guidance

- The **University of Oxford Research Data Management Website** covers:
  - Data management planning
  - Data backup and security
  - Data sharing and archiving
  - Training, advice, and support
- Available to all at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/rdm/>

# Data management guidance

- The **Research Skills Toolkit** offers
  - Information about useful software tools
  - Guidance on organising research material, note taking, tools for analysing data, keeping data safe...
  - Available at <http://www.skillstoolkit.ox.ac.uk/>  
*(University of Oxford only)*
- The **Research Information Management Guides** are an open access version, available via Jorum:  
<http://www.jorum.ac.uk/>

# Data management guidance

- **Support for Managing Research Data:**

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/dataman/>

Guidance from the Incremental Project on creating, organising, accessing, and looking after data

- **UK Data Archive:** <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>

Guidance about best practice for data creation and storage

# Data management training resources

- **OUCS's IT Learning Programme:**  
<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/itlp/> (*Oxford University only*)

A wide range of courses, covering software packages and data management skills

- **Research Information Management** course materials:
  - Organising Humanities Material
  - Tools for the Humanities

Available via Sudamih website: <http://sudamih.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>  
and Jorum: <http://www.jorum.ac.uk/>

# Data management training resources

- Discipline-focused training resources for postgraduates:
- DATUM
  - Health studies
- Research Data MANTRA
  - Social science
  - Clinical psychology
  - Geoscience
- CAiRO
  - Visual and performance arts

# Data management training resources

- DataTrain
  - Social anthropology
  - Archaeology
- DMTPsych
  - Psychology
- Also from DATUM:
  - Research data management training custom search engine

# Supporting researchers: insights from the Sudamih Project

- Data management is an area where most people just get by
- Comparatively few people spontaneously seek out guidance or training

“It feels as though it should be common sense, but I wonder how far common sense gets you”  
– *Postdoctoral researcher in linguistics*

# Data sharing – the researcher's dilemma

- Researchers are typically extremely busy, with many different calls on their time
- There's a huge pressure to produce high-impact research outputs
  - Data publication isn't currently viewed as valuable enough to count
  - Preparing data for publication takes time that could be spent working on a journal article
  - Data publication tends to happen at the end of a project – it's easy for it to fall off the bottom of the list

# Data sharing – the researcher’s dilemma

- Worse still, being asked to publish data can sometimes feel like being asked to hand over the fruit of your hard work so someone else can get credit for it
- This isn’t about ego – it’s about survival

“There’s a limit to how much each individual can afford to do for the good of the community, with no benefit to themselves.”

– *Postdoctoral researcher in sociology*

# Steps towards a solution?

- Anything that just feels like a box-ticking exercise is likely to be unpopular
- There needs to be an emphasis on the tangible benefits (for the researcher!) of good data management practice
- The more straightforward data sharing can be made, the more likely it is to happen

# Contacts

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