Incremental

support for managing your research data

Incremental is a collaboration between the Universities of Cambridge and Glasgow, funded by JISC under the Managing Research Data (MRD) programme. We've interviewed researchers to understand their needs and perspectives and are responding by providing support for data management.

Through face-to-face interviews with researchers and support staff across a range of disciplines, we've found that many:
- **organise** their data in an *ad hoc* fashion
- **store** their data on all kinds of media without considering risks
- are positive about **data sharing** in principle, but reluctant in practice
- believe **back-up** is equivalent to preservation

What researchers want:

1. Simple, coherent guidance

We also found:
Language matters – most researchers do not understand curation-specific terms and want clear, jargon-free explanations
Start early – teach researchers good practice when forming approaches
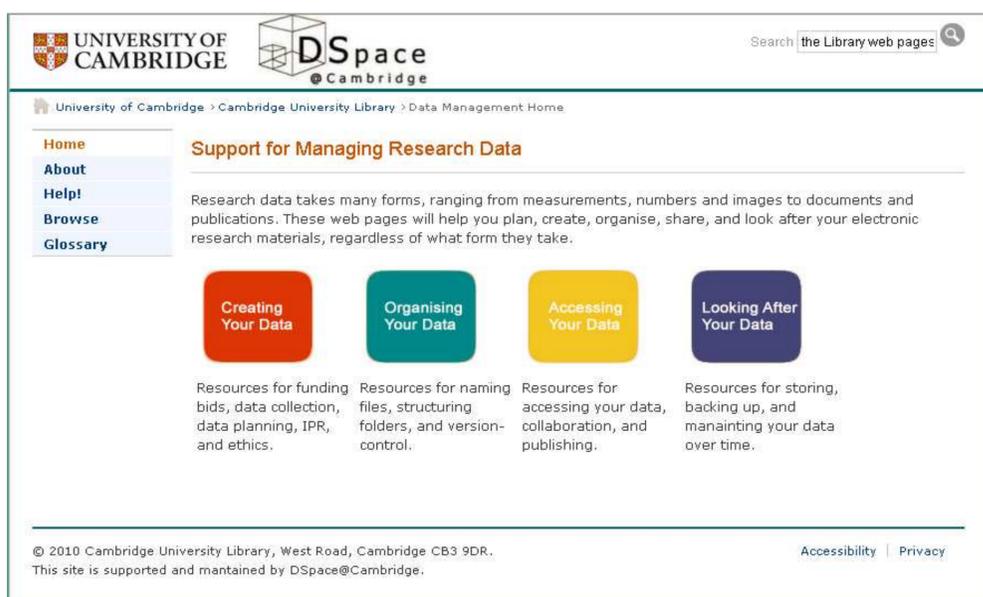

Figure 1: Simple guidance, tailored for Cambridge (above) and Glasgow (right).

Researchers are unaware of available support and unable to find relevant help when they need it. We're collating relevant guidance on data management support webpages. The guidance is brief and provides named contacts with emails and telephone numbers for support.

2. Access to tailored support

Many researchers requested **tailored support** so relevant guidance is given based on their circumstances.

We are **working with research offices** to ensure researchers are directed to existing support staff for one-to-one data planning and management advice during the proposal-writing stage of projects and beyond.

Through our web pages and outreach, we'll provide the **link between researchers and support services.**

3. Relevant training

Researchers were keen for **flexible modes of training** such as online tutorials, videos and interactive learning resources. We will:

- Adopt a **'train the trainer'** approach and work with existing training providers to supply them with materials for existing courses

- Provide **online training resources**, including factsheets, screencasts and video case studies

- Host **discipline-specific workshops** to provide inspiring case studies of how contemporaries have addressed data management issues.

4. A data management infrastructure

We'll provide the **link between researchers and support services.**

Project lessons and outputs will be embedded into university-wide strategies to ensure **sustainability and growth.** We'll also **share resources more widely** through the JISC, DPE and DCC.
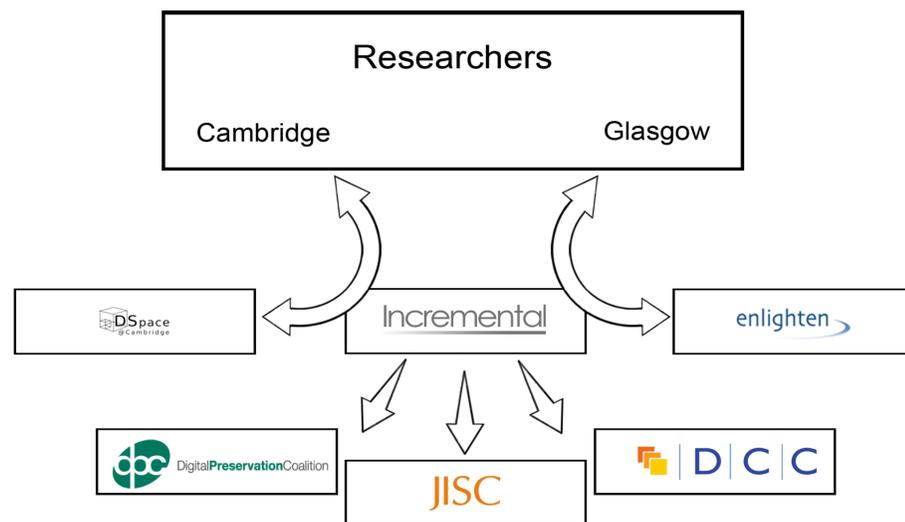

Figure 2: Incremental's relationships with researchers, institutional repositories and dissemination organisations (above).

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