

JISC Conference 2007



Opening the research data lifecycle

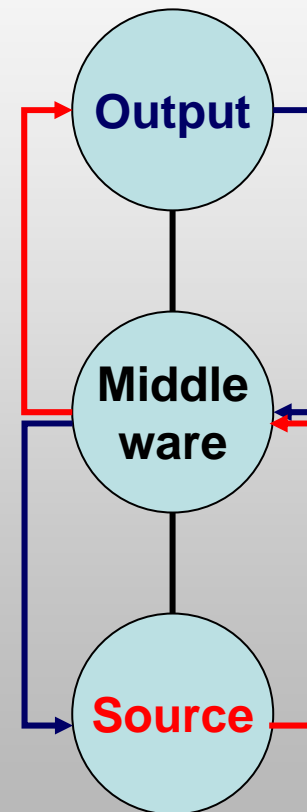
Changing roles and responsibilities

Opening the research data lifecycle

1. Researcher requirements – Graham Pryor
2. Capturing research data – Simon Coles
3. Changing roles and responsibilities – Liz Lyon

The StORe mission

- Seamless transport from research data to research publications and vice versa
- Bi-directional links proven in social science e-research but capable of export to other disciplines



1. Researcher requirements

Project StORe - some indications of researcher needs and aspirations

- Principles
 - dynamic links and open access
- Practicals
 - data types and data management
- Support

Researcher requirements: principles

- Two-way links between source and output repositories

Researcher requirements: principles

Two-way links between source and output repositories

- 85% support project aims as potentially advantageous to conduct of research
- “Would save so much time, making research more productive”
- “Would allow reanalysis as new methods emerged”
- “Integration of multiple data sets from different publications”

Researcher requirements: principles

- Two-way links between source and output repositories
- The concept of open access and its impact on data ownership

Researcher requirements: principles

The concept of open access and its impact on data ownership

- “It should be a requirement that data from publicly funded research is freely available”
- “Restrict access until results are published to prevent data scavenging”
- “A creditable aspiration but without a data administrator this represents a large burden from editing, compiling and sanctioning release”

Researcher requirements: practicals

Data management

Researcher requirements: practicals

Data management

- 75% generate and use 'complex data sets'
- Storage of unique and original research on PCs and laptops is commonplace
- Access influenced by perceived absence of adequate protection and need for interpretation
 - “Data is held on secured CDs in encrypted format with only an identifying code. The codebook is kept physically separate.”

Researcher requirements: practicals

Data management

- 75% generate and use 'complex data sets'
- Storage of unique and original research on PCs and laptops is commonplace
- Access influenced by perceived absence of adequate protection and need for interpretation
- Data volume and lack of time/experience compound issues of data ownership

Researcher requirements: practicals

Data management

- Data volume and lack of time/experience compound issues of data ownership
 - “I’m not encouraged or discouraged from providing data. It just does not justify the effort.”

Researcher requirements: practicals

Data management

Repositories

Researcher requirements: practicals

Repositories

- Development and use: culture of self-sufficiency; broad range of effectiveness
- Some sophistication but limited understanding and familiarity also found across the sector
 - “Very happy with what we have in astronomy...please don't mess with them for the sake of some aesthetic..”
 - “..my understanding of this topic is so limited that giving any answer would be trivial”

Researcher requirements: practicals

Repositories

- Development and use: culture of self-sufficiency; broad range of effectiveness
- Some sophistication but limited understanding and familiarity also found across the sector
- Online browsing replaces browsing library shelves
- Searching for data frustrated by inadequate metadata and clumsy search structures

Researcher requirements: practicals

Data management

Repositories









Metadata

Researcher requirements: practicals

Metadata

- Appropriate assignment acknowledged to be
 - Critical
 - Demanding (intellectually and in the time it requires)
- Consensus on the need for good metadata does not necessarily translate into its provision:
 - High level of self-assignment

JISC Conference 2007 - Opening the research data lifecycle

I decide which terms to use and I assign them:		212
Research colleague(s) assign metadata on the team's behalf:		55
Research support staff assign metadata on the team's behalf:		22
Metadata are assigned by library/information services staff:		4
Metadata are assigned by the repository administrators:		37
Metadata are generated automatically:		63
It is not known who assigns metadata:		68
Other (please specify):		37

Researcher requirements: practicals

Metadata

- Appropriate assignment acknowledged to be
 - Critical
 - Demanding (intellectually and in the time it requires)
- Consensus on the need for good metadata does not necessarily translate into its provision:
 - High level of self-assignment
 - Limited use of standard schemes
 - Metadata as afterthought

Researcher requirements: support - 1

- Lack of awareness of available support
- Disinclination to seek support
- Self-reliance with IT matters
- Prefer online or documentary support
- Discipline knowledge essential
- With few exceptions, management of research data not usually associated with librarians
- Yet...

Researcher requirements: support - 2

- Qualified demonstration of expertise in metadata, data preservation or curation
- Examples of uncritical use of sources
- Both access and sharing restricted by lack of confidence in processes
- Browsing, online help and other features need expert support and maintenance
- Need to boost awareness of opportunities from electronic data management

Researchers and discovery services: behaviour, perceptions and needs - RIN, November 2006

- “...contact with librarians and information professionals is rare”
- “...researchers are generally confident in their [self-taught] abilities.., librarians see them as..relatively unsophisticated”
- “...librarians see it as a problem that they are not reaching all researchers with formal training, whereas most researchers don't think they need it”