

E-Theses and Data Linking

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Project StORe findings

- Disciplines differ
- Open data is a good idea
- Data is uncurated
- Librarians have no role
- Some scientists are uncomfortable with our use of the word 'data'



Researcher behaviour

- 'I would like to use other people's data'
- 'I can see all sorts of advantages'
- 'I don't always want other people seeing my data'
- 'I am worried about loss of competitive advantage'
- 'I don't have time to do it properly'
- 'I will do it if it's a condition of grant'



The data lifecycle

- Not a commonly understood concept
- It should subsume research outputs
- It requires curation
- Sharing and reuse are good things but not the responsibility of researchers themselves



Researchers vs PhD students

- The needs of PhD candidates and researchers are the same
- The academy treats them differently
- The Library should not?
- The PhD student infrastructure environment is a good place to introduce good practice



Disciplinary differences

- Astronomers are well provided for
- Environmental scientists are quite well provided for
- Social scientists are not as well provided for as you might think
- Medicine and biosciences are likely to be much better provided for
- Humanists are not well provided for (and closure of AHDS will make that worse)
- Spectrum ranges from centralised petabyte storage to memory sticks and hard disks



The role of institutions

- Understand the deficit
- Provide data repositories as well as output repositories
- Provide the expertise – either curators, or librarians who can access curators
- Middleware, citation standards, etc not enough



Supporting that role

- JISC and Funding Councils need to invest in *human* repositories
- We cannot provide curatorial expertise for every institution to the level of specialisation needed
- We need a national expertise infrastructure
- Join-up required between domains and library schools, with JISC involved
- Peripatetic role?
- A new model
- Degree of skill change change must => degree of technology change



Thank you

