Joining the Dots

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DESCRIPTION

We invite people to a Birds-of-a-Feather discussion on how best to support research data management within a university. Rather than try to create individual, isolated services, we propose a ‘join the dots’ approach that will build a seamless service consisting of a web of referrals, advice and support across a range of units, and that is underpinned by practicable university policy and procedures. We believe this is the best approach for a large, decentralised research university, with multiple disciplines, but the approach would also suit smaller more centralised, universities.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Discussion of one model for the development of a research data management service
- Increased awareness of others’ experiences (both good and bad) in developing research data management services
- Find out what services or support other institutions offer to manage their research data

OUTLINE

1. Metadata and more: what librarians can offer. Belinda Weaver
   10 minutes
2. Data storage, data management, data discovery, data re-use: IT perspectives. Nigel Ward
   10 minutes
3. Implementing policy: carrot or stick? Suzanne Morris
   10 minutes

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Research data management is growing in importance for universities, for a number of reasons. Researchers need to comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research [1], both in terms of good stewardship of research data and in making data available for sharing where possible. The growth of services to support data citation [2], the creation of data-only journals such as Earth System Science Data [3], and the increasing need for researchers to deposit supporting data when they submit articles for publication [4], are new incentives for researchers to manage data well. Managing ethical concerns and complying with state and federal legislation concerning privacy and records management are also important to sound data management.

But where can researchers get advice and support?

The University of Queensland is investigating the creation of a ‘joined up’ approach to the support of research data management. This would involve multiple units across UQ, but the aim would be the provision of a seamless service to researchers. The service would be delivered by a combination of Web-based information, consultations, referrals, advice and support, training sessions, checklists and templates, and a help line.

The service would aim to knit together the various strands already involved in research support to some degree – the research office; the library; the graduate school; information technology services, including high performance computing; legal services; privacy officer; copyright adviser; research integrity officer, and others. Information on external services that offer high performance or cloud computing, data collaboration or storage will also be provided.

The purpose of the service is to help researchers comply with all relevant codes of conduct and with legislative and institutional requirements. A secondary aim is to help identify data collections of significance that should be included and described in Research Data Australia.

REFERENCES


**ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

**Belinda Weaver**

Belinda Weaver is the Manager, Research Data Collections Service, at the University of Queensland Library. She is responsible for implementing the Library’s research data management strategy. She is currently working with Dr Nigel Ward of UQ’s eResearch Lab on the Seeding the Commons@UQ project for ANDS. She is a former manager of the UQ eSpace repository and was the co-ordinator of the UQ testbed for the APSR project.

**Dr Nigel Ward**

Dr Nigel Ward is based in the eResearch Lab within the School of ITEE at The University of Queensland. He is currently managing UQ’s ANDS funded Seeding the Commons and Data Capture projects. Nigel has a background in digital library technologies and practices such as, metadata semantics, representation, storage and management, resource discovery protocols and persistent identifiers. As part of his current role he is investigating semantic web approaches to representing the research data context, and resource oriented interfaces to metadata registries.

**Dr Suzanne Morris**

In 2010, Dr Suzanne Morris commenced as UQ’s first Research Integrity Officer in the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Her previous long-term position was Education Officer for the CRC Sugarcane Biotechnology also based at UQ. Suzanne is passionate about research integrity and developing skills in research higher degree students and early career researchers to help them negotiate the rocky road to successful research careers.