Using scenarios in introductory research data management workshops for library staff

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- 2 sessions
- ~40 attendees
- Team leaders, contact librarians, and learning skills advisors

- 3 sessions
- ~30 attendees
- Team leaders, discipline librarians, learning advisors, Library & IT Helpdesk staff
The scenarios

- A Higher Degree by Research Student at the start of their project
  - Name and a brief biography
  - Her/his motivation for undertaking a PhD
  - Research topic and methods
  - Goals around dissemination

- Groups asked to identify two potential data management issues, one technical and one non-technical, and report back

See [http://www.samsearle.net/2014/10/rdm-scenarios.html](http://www.samsearle.net/2014/10/rdm-scenarios.html) for links to the scenarios and further resources.
Observations

Engagement

Connecting current knowledge with new areas

Collaboration

Differences and similarities across disciplines
...a near-world situation, a descriptive set of circumstances, a critical incident, even a partial life/story narrative.

...usually contain human actors, a storyline or plot (often incomplete), an invitation to solve a problem, demonstrate an acquired skill, explore an issue/concern, and/or to speculate on alternative outcomes.
1. Identify the needed skills
2. Identify the best type of scenario

- Solve a problem
- Explore an issue from multiple viewpoints
- Speculate about the future
3. Aim for authenticity

- A name and a backstory (who)
- Believable topics and details about research methods (what)
- Focus on motivation and dissemination goals (why)
4. Don't over-simplify it

Q.

A.

What librarians want

Reality

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Conclusions and further work

- Partner with learning specialists
- Explore the full range of scenario types
- Evaluate - engagement at the time is great, but does it lead to action?

Skills development should be exploratory, discursive and reflective, providing a space in which librarians can explore developments as they relate to their individual / team role.

... hands-on practical activities with documents and tools in real or realistic scenarios are important.”

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