Support for researchers around the world

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Introduction

• A sample – not comprehensive
• ‘Support’ means many things; we look at
  • Policy
  • Guidance
  • Services
  • Other activities
• All at many levels – national, local, research domain
Steps towards international policy for over 10 years
G8UK - Endorses OA Open Data Charter Policy Paper 18 June 2013

Policy paper

G8 Open Data Charter and Technical Annex

Published 18 June 2013

Contents
1. Principle 1: Open Data by Default
2. Principle 2: Quality and Quantity
3. Principle 3: Usable by All
4. Principle 4: Releasing Data for Improved Governance
5. Principle 5: Releasing Data for Innovation
6. Technical annex
Policy – national and international

- Steps towards international policy for over 10 years
- Some funder policies precede this
- Implementation by G8 countries encourages others to follow
- Canada, UK, USA, Norway, Netherlands, EC, Germany, Denmark...
- Charitable funders also
- Details differ – broad implications the same
Example - RCUK - The 1-minute version

- Research data are a public good – make openly available in timely & responsible way
- Have policies & plans. Data with long-term value should be preserved & usable
- Metadata for discovery & reuse. Link publications & data
- Sometimes law, ethics get in the way. We understand.
- Limited embargos OK. Recognition is important – always cite data sources
- OK to use public money to do this. Do it efficiently.
One UK funder - EPSRC policy points

- Awareness of regulatory environment
- Data access statement
- Policies and processes
- Data storage
- Structured metadata descriptions
- DOIs for data
- Securely preserved for a minimum of 10 years from last use

Announced 2012 - Compliance expected by 2015

Compliance required by Universities, not researcher
Policies at lower level

- University policies becoming common
- Make clearer how researchers are supported locally
- In UK – Concordat between universities & funders defines points of agreement, responsibility
Lessons on policy

- Funders more effective when university is a clear target of the policy (e.g. EPSRC)
  - Almost all just place responsibility on principal investigator
- Sanctions not necessary – yet
- Must be able to show that compliance can be tracked
- See Wellcome OA as an example
National support

- Examples in some countries of national guidance or services
- Targeted at researchers and sometimes at those who support them
- UK, Netherlands, Denmark, Australia, Portugal, South Korea, Finland, Japan,...
- Work best when linked with local services
Guidance for researchers

How to Appraise & Select Research Data for Curation
Angus Whyte (DCC) and...
National Support - services

- Much variability by country – include:
  - Storage
  - Preservation
  - Data Discovery
  - Data Management Planning
  - Data Analysis or visualisation
  - Secure Data Services

- Some offered direct to researcher – some only to research organisations
National support – service development

Assess needs

- Workflow assessment
- DAF & CARDIO assessments
- Advocacy with senior management

Make the case

- Institutional data catalogues
- Pilot RDM tools
- Guidance and training
- RDM policy development

Customised Data Management Plans

DCC support team

...and support policy implementation
Local support

Services:

» Providing identifiers (ORCIDS, Handles, DOIs)
» Data repositories
» Secure data storage
» Collaboration, analysis, visualisation for active and/or released data
» Data management planning
» Integration with researcher profiles
» Interlinking of internal and external systems
Local support - people

- **Guidance and advice**
  - On access
  - On data governance

- **Awareness-raising**
  - Short talks
  - Using other events
  - Working with (e.g.) ethics boards
  - Marketing – e.g. payslips

- **Training for early-career researchers**

- **Audit – who has what and where is it?**
What is the national picture in the UK?

Policy and strategy – 87%

Data Management Planning – 50%

Data cataloguing – 38%

Managing active data – 40%

Data preservation – 18%

Governing access & reuse – 22%

% indicating ‘rolling out’ or ‘embedding’

Business planning – 13%

Skills training & consultancy – 63%
These services can be...

- In-house, for one university
- Shared between a number of universities
- Shared across a country (in development)
- Purchased from a supplier – Figshare, Arkivum, etc.
- Scale is important
- Some things are hard to buy – storage is easy
Domain support – data centres & infrastructure
These data repositories often do much more than accept and provide data

Can advise researchers at project design stage

Improve data description to make use easier by others

Integrate data with larger collection (e.g. UniProt)
QUESTIONS?
Policy and Legal

Policy resources

Overview of Funders' Data Policies
A table and short summaries comparing research funders' policies.

Funders' Data Policies
Detailed overview of each funder’s policy, stating requirement for data plans, expectations on data sharing and available support.

Institutional Data Policies
A table listing example of UK universities research data policies. Add your examples!

Policy Tools and Guidance
Annotated bibliography of: 1) tools and guidance for creating policies; 2) example policies; 3) publications; & 4) data management guidance.

Preservation policy template
Template to help repositories define preservation policies

Data management plans & DMP Online
Summary of what funders ask for in plans and the DCC's tool to help

http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/policy-and-legal
Australia

- Significant long-term funding for national services & support
- ANDS – data discovery, software, skills, coordination, advice
- National storage & HPC infrastructure
- Financial incentives for universities to use common services in standard ways
Like Australia, national research funding but province-level university funding

Two initiatives – one from universities (PROTAGE), one from federal level (RDC)

Data management planning, discovery, skills, repositories

Common tools for local deployment
Netherlands

▷ Strong national data repository – DANS
▷ One cooperative service – 3TU (now 4TU)
▷ Combined to produce RDNL – back office tech services, front office liaison
▷ National Dataverse instance
▷ Some shared services now being proposed by SURF-SARA
- Existing national publication repository
- Extending to cover research data
- One provider, university-branded front-ends
- Copying other aspects of UK model – e.g. regular meetings for professional staff, funders, other stakeholders
- Scale means many initiatives
- Much is NSF project-funded
- Some existing university collaborations
- Similar spread to UK – 3 or 4 tiers from Ivy League to small institutions
- Very complex funding model
- Technology is useful – models less so