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Leeds RoaDMaP

(Leeds Research Data Management Pilot)

The Leeds RoaDMaP Project will investigate the requirements for, and pilot the implementation of, an institutional research data management infrastructure, which includes policies, data management plans and guidelines, processes, systems, support and training.
The project, led by the University of Leeds Library, builds upon the work started at Leeds as part of a UKRDS feasibility study and will involve a collaboration of staff from the University's central services and academic departments alongside the DCC and two commercial partners, F5 and National Instruments.

The RoaDMaP Project will be able to directly inform the JISC Managing Research Data Programme and the wider community – it will be delivered via a series of work-packages and 3 case studies which relate to the 3 broad stages of the research lifecycle – to ensure that the pilot infrastructure accommodates data management requirements for pre-award, live, and post-award research groups. The work-packages have been defined to address the sections of a research data management infrastructure that other HEIs are considering, and the case studies have been defined to ensure that a cross section (in terms of lifecycle stage, primary role and discipline) of research staff are contributing to project findings.

UNDERSTANDING THE RESEARCH LIFECYCLE: A CASE STUDY APPROACH ▶▶▶▶

Understanding of research lifecycle, funding body and legal/ethical requirements will underpin the establishment of policy and development of systems and roles that will meet those requirements. The project will build upon previous work and aims to produce context specific requirements specifications that can be used as a starting point by new research projects. The case studies will be assessed and compared in this way and the outcomes used to develop a first set of context specific templates. Case studies have already been identified in Mechanical Engineering, Music and Social Sciences.

DELIVERABLES: Requirements specification for each case study, agreed with PIs.

DCC DMP ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

Working in partnership with DCC, the project will pilot both the current production version of the DMP Online tool and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement; some of which will be incorporated into the tool during this project. In particular, working with DCC we will investigate the feasibility of building an open standards based interface to the DMP online tool to allow the data management plans to be integrated into a larger research data management information system. Through the second round of case studies, we will gather feedback from PIs, research managers & administrators and IT staff on their experience of using the DMP Online tool and use this to shape the future development of the service.

DELIVERABLES: Pilot, evaluation, gap analysis and further development of DCC's DMP online. Identified requirements for future enhancements including integration with other RDMSs.

SOFTWARE SYSTEMS AND METADATA ▶▶▶▶

RoaDMaP will work with the developers of ADMIRAL and the associated DATABANK repository which will be implemented as part of the project. Under UMF, ADMIRAL will be developed into DATAFLOW, and RoaDMaP will work collaboratively with the DATAFLOW team to the mutual benefit of both projects.

Laboratory experiments increasingly use data capture hardware and software to collect experimental results. Associating contextual information with data at the point of capture would greatly aid the future management of that data. Leeds has adopted National Instruments Labview and the project will extend the metadata capabilities of Labview and integrate this with ADMIRAL. In collaboration with National Instruments we intend to develop tailorable software components that will enable the routine capture of relevant contextual information and store this in a format that is readily usable by the RDMS. The software components created will be of value to other Labview users and the experience gained from the process of working with Laboratory based researchers will be more widely applicable. Modules developed will be released according to JISC's Open Source Software Policy with guidance from OSSWatch.

DELIVERABLES: Working research data management platform for Leeds; guidelines for implementation of platform; metadata descriptions and templates, Labview utilities.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT POLICIES ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

Policy development is an important early task for the RoaDMaP project team. The project team will work with the University of Leeds Research Data Steering Group to develop a high level policy for the institution. It is intended that the case study will produce specific policies that provide more practical guidance for the researchers and support teams.

DELIVERABLES: An overarching Institutional Research Data Management Policy. Guidelines for implementing the institutional policy. 3 specific policies resulting from the project case studies (i.e. definitions of how the Institutional Policy will be implemented for the faculty case studies).

F5 – CLOUD-BASED STORAGE ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

We will work with F5 to implement their ARX file virtualisation system with Cloud Extender module. This will create a single virtualised file system built from a number of University central & faculty managed file servers as well as external cloud-based storage. The use of cloud storage, both as a secondary copy of live data and as a storage tier in its own right will be tested. The working group will work with researchers to gather feedback on their experience of using the new file service from a range of client devices.

DELIVERABLES: Working single virtualised storage area created from file systems on central University SAN, Faculty managed storage and a 3rd party cloud provider, or future cloud storage services as brokered by UMF Cloud Programme.

TRAINING FOR CULTURAL CHANGE ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

An important component of the project will be the development of support and training infrastructure. Ensuring there is good quality training and support material for our case studies is important. Adapting and developing those materials in such a way that core principles are explored along with templates for the inclusion of discipline specific examples will ease future uptake in a consistent manner. The starting point will be collaboration with DCC and "Digital Curation 101" for our generic training base and extending this collaboration into template design and the discipline specific components. The intention will be to make use of materials developed as part of earlier national and international projects, from Incremental and Sudamih through to the latest round Datatrain, Cairo etc. As part of this work the project will look at training and support needs for staff in research support roles, Library, IT, Research Support, Laboratory Technicians – engendering common understanding across the whole academic team.

DELIVERABLES: Training materials, templates, discipline specific instances. Instructions for extension to other disciplines. These will be available via JORUM.

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