

Let's talk about it.

Data Conversations as an approach to facilitating Open Data and sustainability

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Overview

- Setting the scene
- How sustainable are our RDM services?
- Trends in RDM engagement & Open Data advocacy
- How can Data Conversations support RDM sustainability?

Setting the scene: RDM drivers

Our RDM Service is working towards

- Implementing FAIR principles: making data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-Usable
- Translating Principles of the UK Concordat on open research data into research practice
- Compliance with research funders such as RCUK and Horizon 2020
- Implementing Lancaster's Research Data Policy

Setting the scene: RDM services

Our RDM Services include

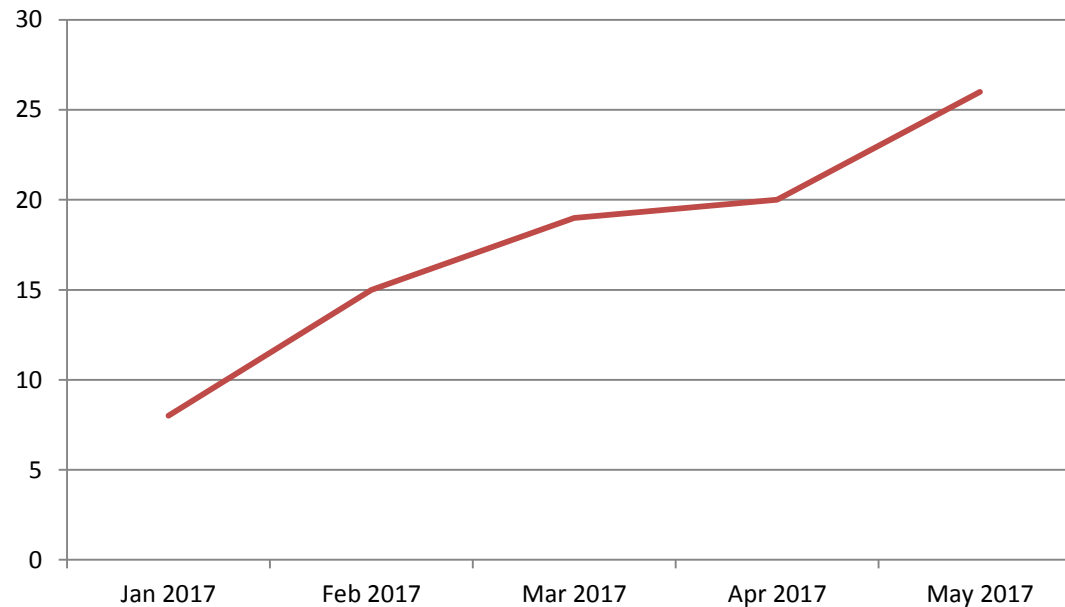
- Data catalogue and data publication (using our CRIS Pure as repository), DOI minting and long-term preservation
- RDM Training and advocacy
- Data Management Plan support & review service
- RDM 1-1 consultancy sessions
- RDM email enquiry service

RDM service sustainability

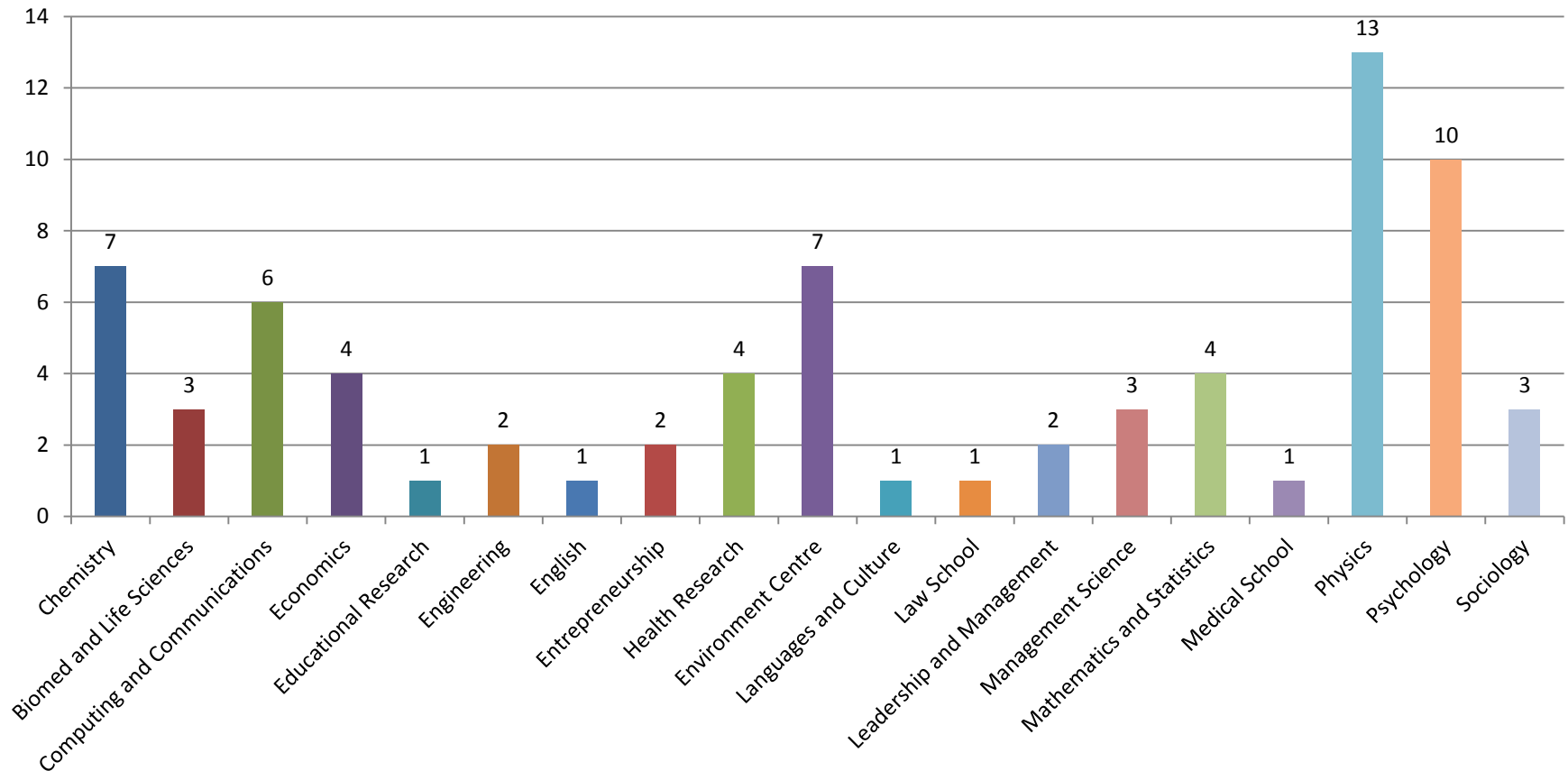
- UK: “the average allocation to the central RDM service was 1.7 FTE per institution. That is expected to rise to 2.0 by May 2016.”
- At least two thirds of institutions currently have less than 1 FTE allocated to RDM (Source: [DCC survey](#) 2015).
- UK: 201,380 staff, 270,000 post grad students (2015/16, Source: HESA) in 164 HE institutions
- Lancaster University: 1.5 FTE for 1,241 academic staff and 1,644 postgrad students.

Trends of Lancaster's RDM service

Number of RDM enquiries in 2017 at Lancaster University



RDM enquiries per Department (Jan-May 2017)



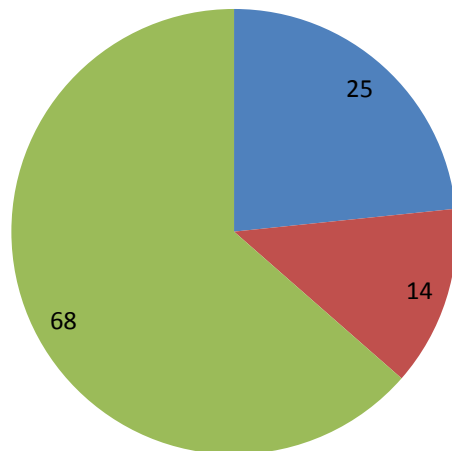
How do institutions implement RDM?

Possible approaches for engagement

- **Top down** (e.g. via Pro-VC Research or senior management to researchers)
- **Bottom up - Proactive researchers** (e.g. engaging other researchers on RDM as a good practice)
- **Support service led** (e.g. Library, Research Office, or another department)

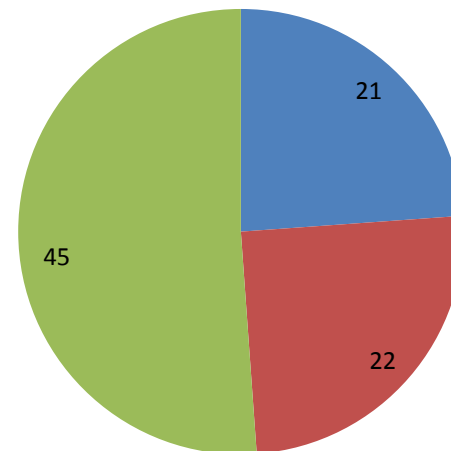
How do institutions implement RDM?

Early stages of RDM development



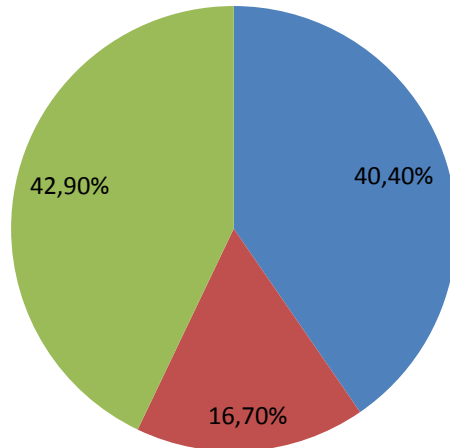
- Top down (e.g. via PVC Research or senior management to researchers)
- Bottom up (e.g. researchers engaging other researchers on RDM as a good practice)
- Support service led (e.g. Library, Research Office, or another department)

Later stages of RDM development

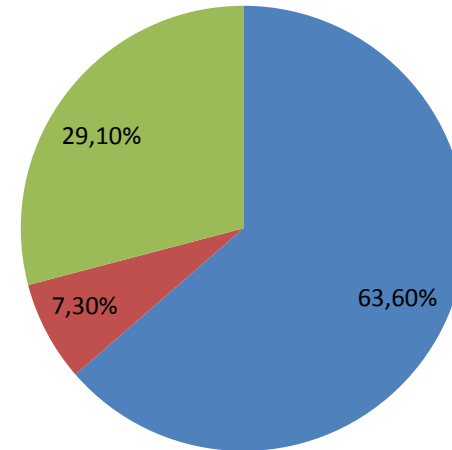


What is seen as successful?

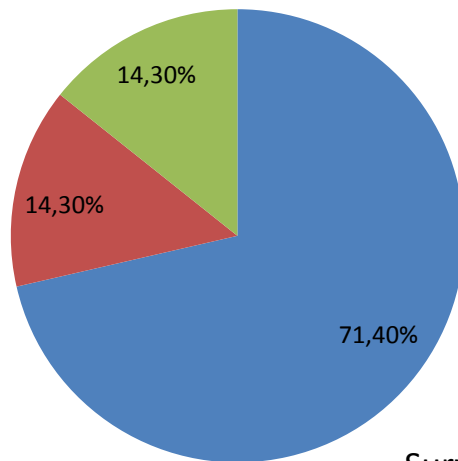
Top Down



Support Service- Compliance



Proactive researcher



Success

Failure

Mixed

Conclusions for RDM sustainability

- RDM staff will struggle to cope with demand for services and advocacy on an ongoing basis
- No method works perfectly, RDM implementation needs mix of approaches
- RDM engagement with “proactive researchers” has high success rate and potential to facilitate RDM “culture change”

RDM engagement models with “proactive researchers”

- **Data Champions**, e.g. [Cambridge University](#)
 - Local experts that provide advice and training
- **Data Stewards**, e.g. [Indiana University](#)
 - Data Stewards maintain high-level guidance for data access in Faculties
- **Data Forum**, e.g. [Lancaster University](#)
 - [Data Conversations](#) invite researchers to tell their “data stories”

- Event organised 3x per year
- **What are Data Conversations?** 25-30 researchers, 4-5 Lightning Talks (recruited by open call), 2 hours with lunch pre event
- A platform where researchers can talk about Open Data & RDM based on real life examples
- Encourages interdisciplinary research and sparks new ideas
- Facilitates peer-led support for aspects of the research process including RDM
- Library organises venue, free food (pizza works!) and sets themes:
 - Data sharing
 - Data security & confidentiality
 - Software as data



2ND LANCASTER DATA CONVERSATIONS

Agenda

AGENDA

1. Denes Csala , The sensor cloud around us
2. Kopo Marvin Ramokapane, Cloud Computing: When is deletion deletion?
3. Karen Broadhurst & Stuart Bedston. Better data for better justice
4. John Couzins, Security Overview at Lancaster University
5. Mateusz Mikusz, Running research as a service - implications for privacy policies and ethics

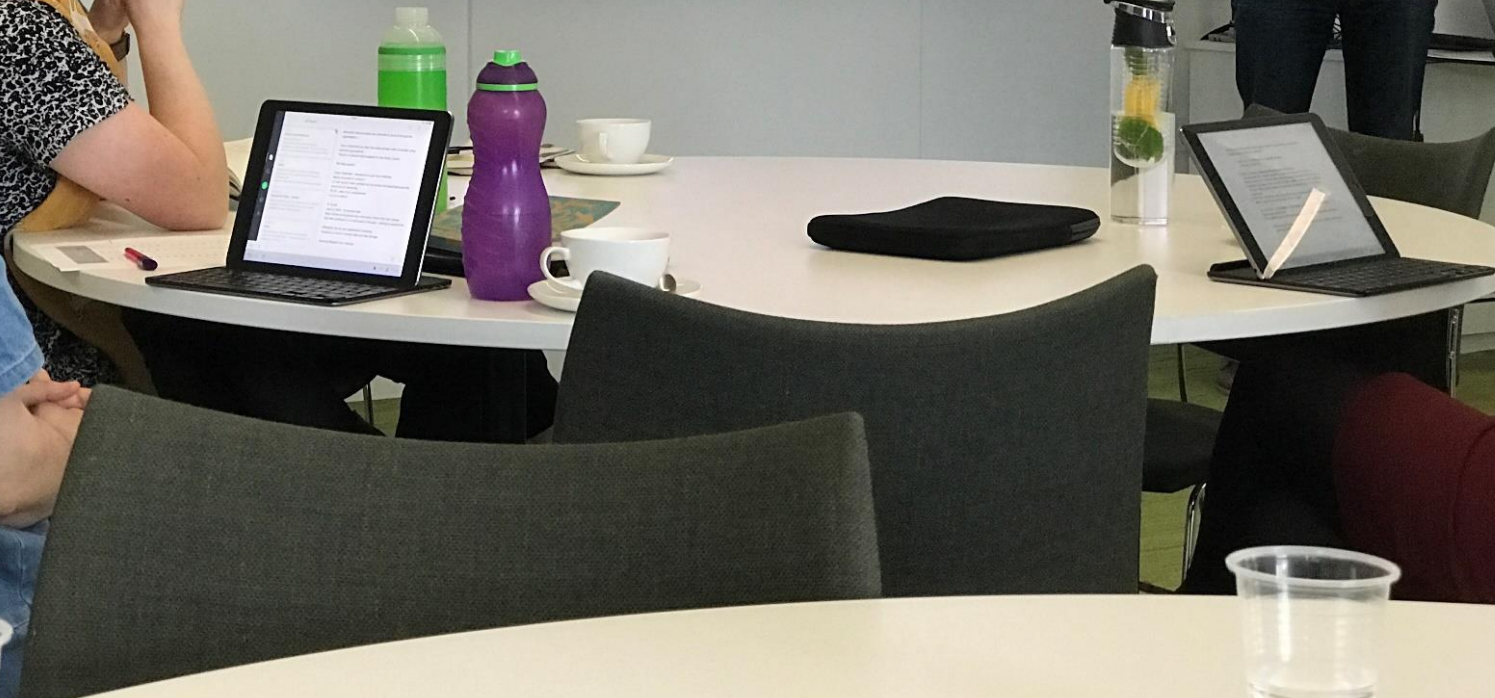


4 MAY 2017

Running Research as a Service

Implications for Privacy Policies and Ethics

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Feedback

- “Extremely useful” or “Very useful” were selected by 89% of the first event and 75% of the second
- “Enjoyed the presentations. I hope these Data Conversations will become a nice community for those interested in data. Relaxed and nicely themed but not too prescribed.”
- “I realised that a lot of research can benefit from this event.”

Data Conversations and Sustainability

- The event does need resources (venue, advertising) but programme is peer-led
- The event can help to spark a cultural shift where good RDM is part of the research process
- Next steps at Lancaster: Data Champions and Data Interviews (<http://bit.ly/DataInterviews>)
- Data Conversations build trust in the Library as a facilitator of good research practices

Open Science

PROSPR - We are an informal support group within Psychology, with the objective of PRomoting Open Science PRactices within the department and beyond.

We meet informally and discuss how open science principles can be implemented effectively, to improve research transparency across different fields of psychology.

We encourage the awareness of Open Science ideas and training opportunities, both for early career scientists (especially where best practices can be embedded as part of career training) and senior academics.

We promote the use of open science and research integrity within the teaching curriculum, to grow students awareness of the range of relevant topics and methods, and embed their understanding within the undergraduate and graduate curriculum, as part of an agenda for supporting students' critical thinking. This covers the spectrum from reproducibility issues, data management practices, open data and the impact of statistical and analytic procedures on inferential outcomes. We also encourage innovation and IT support that can facilitate students' appreciation of open science. We promote the use of open source software for psychology experiments and analysis where practical and feasible

We advocate for the more widespread embrace of the open science movement. We look to celebrate positive examples of open science among students, staff and potential employment recruits

PROSPR members have been involved in:

- Registered Reports
- many-lab replication projects
- study preregistrations
- open access publishing
- open data archiving

We have also developed teaching resources for data archiving systems and received funding to promote data management practices. We welcome opportunities from like-minded researchers to discuss where these and other initiatives might be productive.

We collaborate with colleagues across Lancaster University and support institutional initiative such as the **Data Conversations** programme. Lancaster University maintains a datasets repository to support transparency and **open data practices**. The University library services, **as part of** their digital innovation programme, support the **UK concordat on open research data**. There is also a useful research services blog [here](#).

We recognise other open science groups within Psychology that share our enthusiasm, such as the **Open Science Working Group at Cardiff**. Likewise, we support initiatives such as the commitment to **research transparency**.

Source

What we have learnt

- RDM services might not be sustainable in current form
- Bottom-up or peer-led engagement efforts such as Data Conversations have positive effects in promoting Open Research
- Facilitating a culture change towards embedding RDM in research practice will take pressure off RDM services and will make them more sustainable

Thank you!

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