

Stewards, Champions or Advisors?

An overview of institutional Research Data
Management support structures

Rosie Higman

Research Data Librarian, University of Manchester



@RosieHLib

Stewards, Champions or Advisors?

3 Faculties, 16 Schools
£331 million research funding
6,685 Academic staff
3,625 PGR students

2 Research Data Librarians
1 Research Services Officer

With thanks to RDM staff at

TU Delft

Wageningen University and Research

Utrecht University

Radboud University

Lancaster University

University of Cambridge

Unlock your potential
Investing in Success

#inspireandbeinspired



STAFF **L&D**
LEARNING AND
DEVELOPMENT

Three Approaches

Champions

Advisors

Managers

Champions

Promote good data management within departments, typically researchers or research students, and are volunteers or are given a small amount of time given to be 'champions'.

Champions

Low set up costs, flexible, minimal commitment from
Champions

Volunteer labour, turnover, limit to support which can be offered

**Best for institutions with lower levels of senior support
and wanting to start quickly**

Advisors

Full-time embedded advisors who advocate for good data management, proactively support researchers, develop protocols, may review DMPs and provide training.

Advisors

Very high levels of support, develop expertise in discipline, advisors are paid so incentivised

Large resource commitment, finding the right staff

Best for institutions with strong senior support for RDM and open science, and basic RDM services are well established.

Managers

A black and white photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing glasses and large over-ear headphones. She is sitting at a desk, looking at two large computer monitors and a laptop. The monitors display code or data. The desk is white and modern. A window is visible in the background, showing a cityscape. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Central pool of hands-on data managers working on individual research projects to help manage the data in that project.".

Central pool of hands-on data managers working on individual research projects to help manage the data in that project.

Managers

Self-financing, minimal institutional buy in and able to provide practical help

Only support a few groups at once, dependent on external funding, affect on cultural change

Best for institutions with limited senior support aiming to provide practical help rather than achieve widespread cultural change.

Finding the right fit

Senior support

Range of disciplines

Size of institution

Goals

Unresolved issues

Incentives for researchers

Connection to other awareness raising initiatives

Relationship with central support teams

Managers, Champions, or Advisors?

| | Champions | Advisors | Managers |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Financial commitment | Small | Large | Medium |
| Senior support needed | Little | Lots | Medium |
| Stewards incentivised? | No | Yes | Yes |
| Affects central support team? | Maybe | Yes | No |
| Support available to all? | Maybe | Yes | No |
| Culture Change | ? | ? | ? |

rosie.higman@manchester.ac.uk

 @RosieHLib

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1477218>