

Stewards, Champions or Advisors?

An overview of institutional Research Data Management support structures

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Stewards, Champions or Advisors?

The University of Manchester

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MANCHESTER

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

2 Research Data Librarians1 Research Services Officer

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With thanks to RDM staff at

The University of Manchester

TU Delft Wageningen University and Research Utrecht University Radboud University Lancaster University University of Cambridge

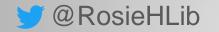






Three Approaches

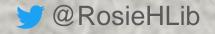






Champions

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'.



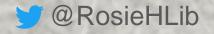


Champions

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



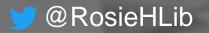


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Advisors

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

training.





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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.

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Central pool of hands-on data managers working on individual research projects to help

manage the data in that project.

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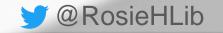


Managers

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.



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Finding the right fit

Senior support

Range of disciplines

Size of institution

Goals

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Incentives for researchers

Connection to other awareness raising initiatives

Relationship with central support teams





Managers, Champions, or Advisors?

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| | 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 | ? | ? | ? |

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