

Time to Professionalise Data Stewardship

Workshop by Maria Cruz, Marta Teperek, Angus Whyte
with Celia van Gelder, Hugh Shanahan, Melanie Imming
Open Science Fair, Porto, Portugal, 17 September, 2019

The Organisers



Maria Cruz, Community Manager RDM
Library, VU Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Welcome and introduction to the workshop



Marta Teperek, Data Stewardship Coordinator
TU Delft Library, the Netherlands
Challenges with rewarding and retaining data stewards



Angus Whyte, Senior Research Data Specialist
Digital Curation Centre, UK
**EOSCpilot FAIR4S, a template for describing roles and skills
and basis for the terms4FAIRskills terminology for FAIR skills**

The Guest Speakers



Melanie Imming, Imming Impact, NL

Data stewardship on the map: A study of tasks and roles in Dutch research institutes



Celia van Gelder, Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences (DTL), NL

Towards Fair Data Steward as a profession for the Life Sciences



Hugh Shanahan, Royal Holloway, UK

Applying the terms4FAIRskills terminology to plan a curriculum, and introducing the data stewardship strand to the CODATA-RDA Research Data Science schools via FAIRsFAIR

Introduction to the workshop

Maria Cruz, VU Amsterdam

Workshop Programme

11:00 - 11:15 | Welcome and introduction

11:15 - 12:00 | Case study presentations

12:00 - 12:30 | Discussion in groups

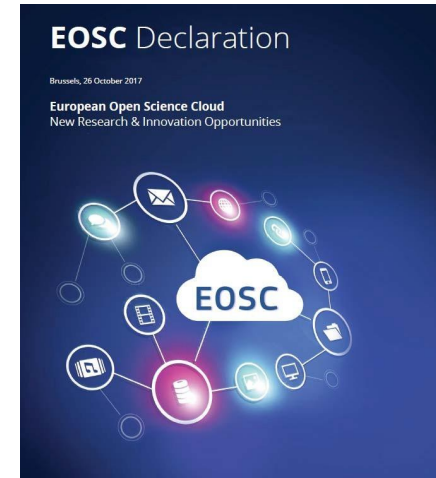
12:30 - 12:50 | Feedback from group discussions

12:50 - 13:00 | Wrap up and summary

“Researchers need the support of adequately trained data stewards.”
EOSC Declaration 2017



“New job profiles need to be defined and education programmes put in place to train the large cohort of data scientists and data stewards required to support the transition to FAIR.”
EC Commission Report on FAIR Data 2018



Workshop Premise

The transition to Open Science and FAIR data requires increased provision and professionalisation of data stewardship.

Today's workshop

How do we bridge the gap
between theory and practice,
between policy and
implementation?



The participants



Challenges with rewarding and retaining data stewards

Marta Teperek, TU Delft (*practitioner perspective*)

1. What remuneration level is appropriate?

- *“Xxxx data stewards are on a higher salary scale”*
- *“I’ve seen the job advert from xxx - they are offering more money”*



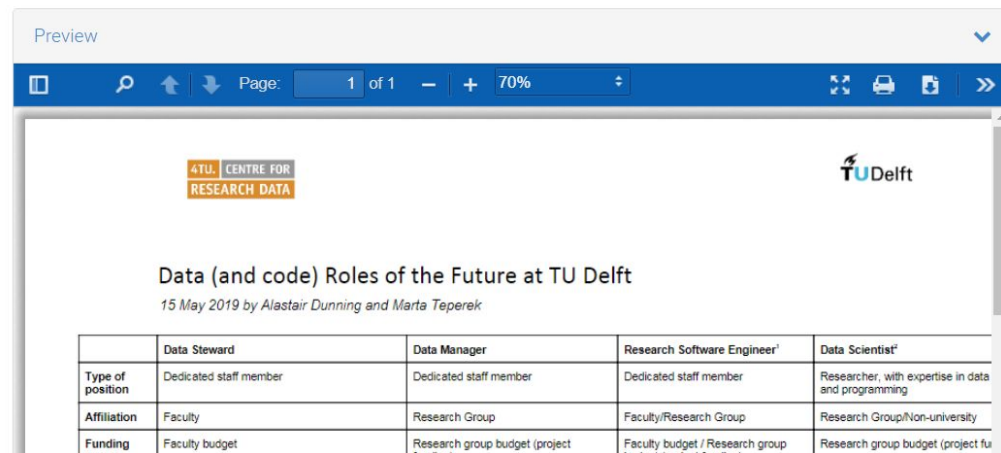
2. What does a Data Steward do the whole day?

- “Can you fix my printer”?
- “Can you install this new software for me”?

Data (and code) roles of the future at TU Delft

 Teperek, Marta;  Dunning, Alastair

This is a draft version (1.0, constant revisions anticipated!) explaining the data (and code) roles of the future at TU Delft.



The screenshot shows a PDF preview window with a blue header bar containing navigation icons and page information (Page: 1 of 1, 70% zoom). The document content includes the ATU Centre for Research Data logo and the TU Delft logo. The title is 'Data (and code) Roles of the Future at TU Delft' and the authors are '15 May 2019 by Alastair Dunning and Marta Teperek'. Below the title is a table comparing four roles: Data Steward, Data Manager, Research Software Engineer, and Data Scientist.

	Data Steward	Data Manager	Research Software Engineer ¹	Data Scientist ²
Type of position	Dedicated staff member	Dedicated staff member	Dedicated staff member	Researcher, with expertise in data and programming
Affiliation	Faculty	Research Group	Faculty/Research Group	Research Group/Non-university
Funding	Faculty budget	Research group budget (project funding)	Faculty budget / Research group budget (project funding)	Research group budget (project funding)

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3256576>

3. What is the career progression of a data steward?

“I like my work here, but I want to develop myself. What’s the next level and what do I need to do to get there?”



Presentations

Presentations

Melanie Imming, Imming Impact, NL

Data stewardship on the map: A study of tasks and roles in Dutch research institutes

Celia van Gelder, Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences (DTL), NL

Towards Fair Data Steward as a profession for the Life Sciences

Angus Whyte, Digital Curation Centre, UK

EOSCpilot FAIR4S, a template for describing roles and skills and basis for the terms4FAIRskills terminology for FAIR skills

Hugh Shanahan, Royal Holloway, UK

Applying the terms4FAIRskills terminology to plan a curriculum, and introducing the data stewardship strand to the CODATA-RDA Research Data Science schools via FAIRsFAIR

Discussion in Groups

Choose a topic for group discussion

- 6 topics to choose from



Topics for discussion (www.menti.com 96 52 82)

How to get started?

How to convince the Board, Faculties, etc. to start a programme? How to fund it?
How to involve the Faculties and researchers?

Hiring Data Stewards

How do you write a job profile? What are the required skills and competencies?
How to define the role?

Community of Practice

How do you form and sustain a community of data stewards?

Training

How to train data stewards and ensure continued professional development?

Career progression

How to retain talent? How to answer questions about career progression?

Joint efforts across countries

How to effectively collaborate across countries? How can we learn from each other?

Activity (12.10 - 12.30)

1. Join a table with your preferred topic, where you will find a large working sheet, post-it notes, markers and stickers.

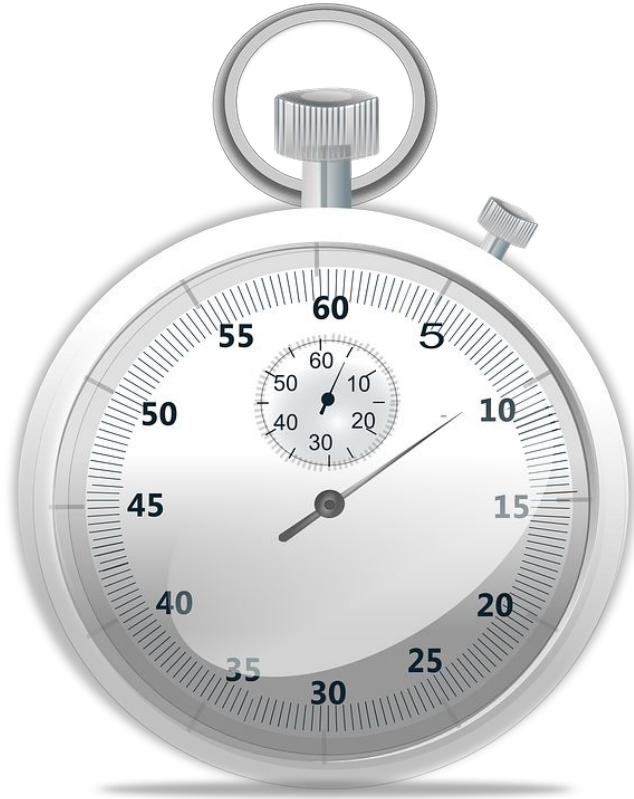
10 minutes:

2. Use the post-it notes to write your answers to the questions on the sheet.

10 minutes:

3. Use the stickers to vote on what's most important to follow up. Discuss.
4. **Select a rapporteur:** your main discussion points, most important barriers and best solutions (will have 3 mins to present)
5. Interested in helping to write a blogpost? => Take notes of the discussion.

Feedback from discussion (12.30 - 12.50)



3 minutes
each

Highlights from the discussion

Highlights from discussion on Cross-country collaborations

- There's not enough cooperation across borders.
- Best practices: well perceived to have data stewards embedded in the research community.
- Need for joint documents, templates with basic principles - need to have a common ground. This would ease the overload.

Highlights from discussion on Community Building

- Community of Practice of Data Stewards
 - How to find each other? No sense community quite yet
 - Who will establish and build the community? Bottom up / top down?
 - Model it on RSE community, define roles.
 - Who is going to fund the CoP activity?
-
- If you are interested please join the Data Stewards Interest Group:
<https://www.dtls.nl/community/interest-groups/data-stewards-interest-group/>

Highlights from discussion on Career Development

- Not so easy to think about career development for DS given that in many countries the universities do not even know what the means.
- One of main challenges is how to define a career path for data stewards. Are these short term contracts? How are these role funded? There is always a lack of resources.
- Job description is a bit of a mix of different competencies.
- Connection to RSE role could also work very well.
- Really helpful to know a lot of work has been done already (from the presentations in the first part of the workshop). It would be useful if those initiatives were better aligned.

Highlights from discussion on Convincing Management

- Need to have a data policy in place - that's the first step. But this can be tricky.
- Working closely with researchers may help to articulate the needs from the bottom up. Sometimes it is not clear to management why DS is needed, but if it comes from the research community that may help.

Highlights from discussion on Training

- The most important thing is building knowledge about data stewardship - the term. This term needs to be better defined. It is hard to train when you don't know who you are training.
- There is lack of recognition of data stewardship. Data stewards are undervalued and in general there's lack of capacity.
- There's not enough money to put into DS and training.
- We need disciplinary data stewards. Disciplinary differences can be a problem though when it comes to training.
- Need a dedicated team who meet regularly. Data stewards need to work closely with researchers. Need DS community that share knowledge and training.
- Lack of training materials.

Next steps

Next steps

- What are your ideas?
- What should be the next steps?



Next steps

- The materials from the workshop will be available via Zenodo:
 - <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3420179>

- Any volunteers to help write a blogpost about the workshop? Please contact Angus Whyte: A.Whyte@ed.ac.uk