

# Data stewards in libraries

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## Data stewardship

**“The responsible planning and executing of all actions on (digital) data before, during and after a research project, with the aim of optimising the usability, reusability and reproducibility of the resulting data.”**

[Scholtens et al 2019](#)



# Task force : Data stewardship

## Name of the task force

Professionalizing data stewardship in libraries

## Planned deliverables

- Library professionals job descriptions
- Outline of skills
- Implementation strategies for libraries to improve staff skills

## Members of the task force

Eliane Blumer, Mari Elisa Kuusniemi, Rob Grim & Mijke Jetten

In collaboration with the [RDA Data Stewardship Interest Group](#)



# RDA Data Stewardship Interest Group

- Provide a forum for knowledge and experience exchange in national and international efforts to professionalise data stewardship.
- Define challenges which need to be addressed to professionalise data stewardship.
- Design a strategy to tackle the identified challenges.
- Contribute to global RDA community growth through new members joining this group.
- Stimulate collaboration, creation of new connections and cooperation between group members and beyond.
- Organise webinars to promote the work of the Interest Group.



# University -wide RDM roles vary

## Example from TU Delft



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### The **LIBRARY** is expected to:

- Provide robust, high-quality infrastructure to facilitate good data management including:
  - Coordinate the creation and development of high quality advice on research data management.
  - A variety of services to assist with the management of raw and processed data (in combination with ICT).
  - A certified archival service (4TU. ResearchData) that offers at least 15 years of long-term curation for research data (in combination with ICT).
- Work with faculties to provide advice and training in good data management.
- Coordinate a network of Data Stewards, who are embedded within the faculties.

### The **ICT DEPARTMENT** is expected to:

- Provide a standard, robust, high-quality infrastructure to facilitate good data management and storage where possible.
- Provide a custom, high-quality infrastructure to facilitate good data management and storage where necessary.
- Provide secure access management to data according to ICT security guidelines.

### The **BOARD FOR DOCTORATES** is expected to:

- oversee the parts of the policy related to the PhD process.

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICES** are expected to:

- Provide suitable training for researchers and students on good research data management (Graduate School / Education and Student Affairs).
- Provide expert contributions to policy and practical issues related to data protection and ownership (Legal / ICT).
- Ensure understanding of good research data practices is recognised as part of university profiles and behaviours (Human Resources).
- Devising strategies to deal with the economic aspects of long-term data archiving (Finance).

# How to discuss about data stewardship roles?

Research data management is a relatively new area of expertise

No common understanding, vocabulary, job descriptions...

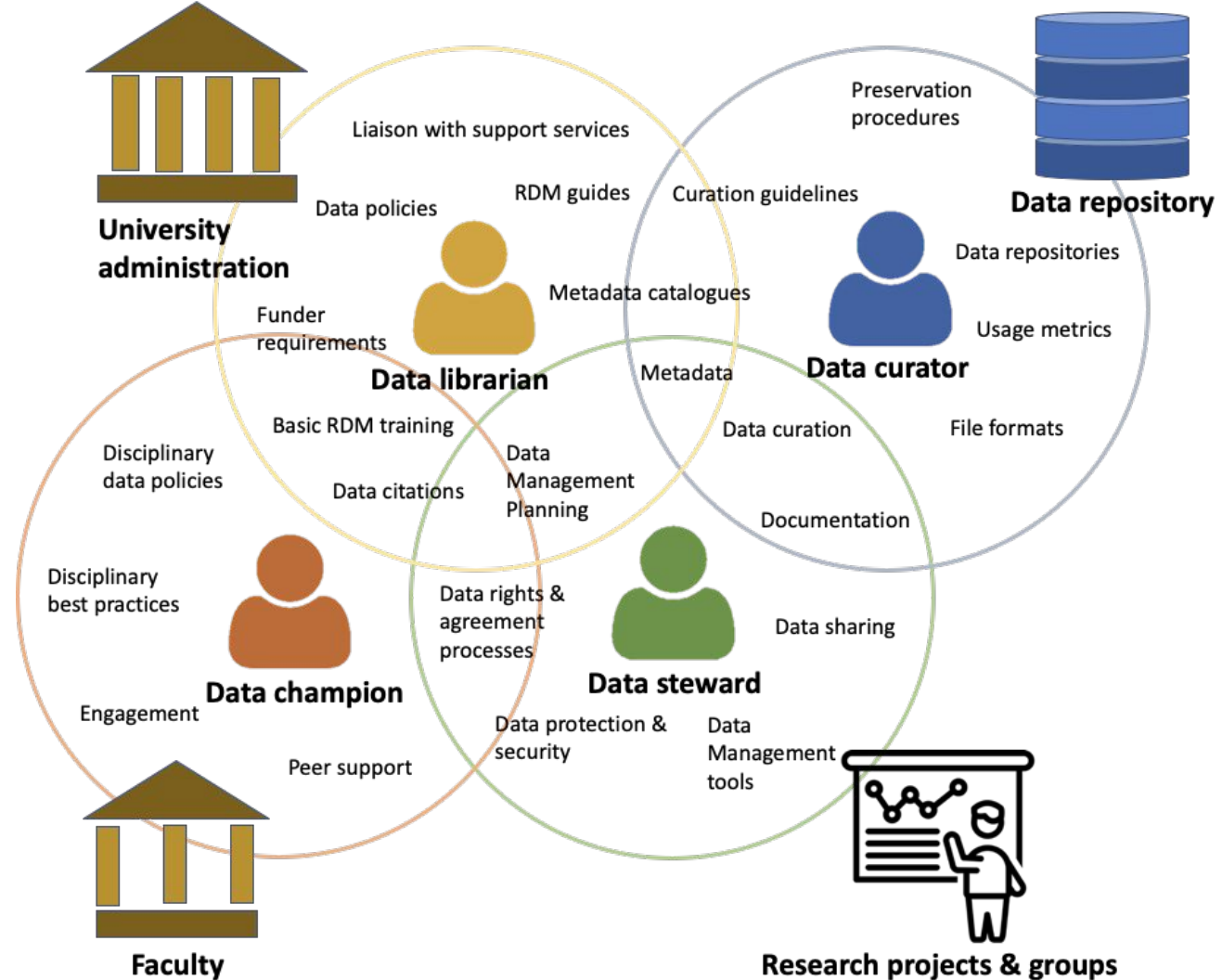


# Case University of Helsinki



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# Data stewardship roles at University of Helsinki



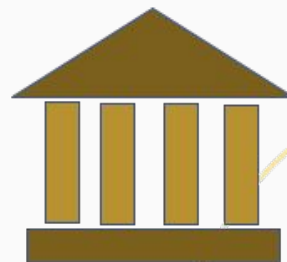


# Data librarian

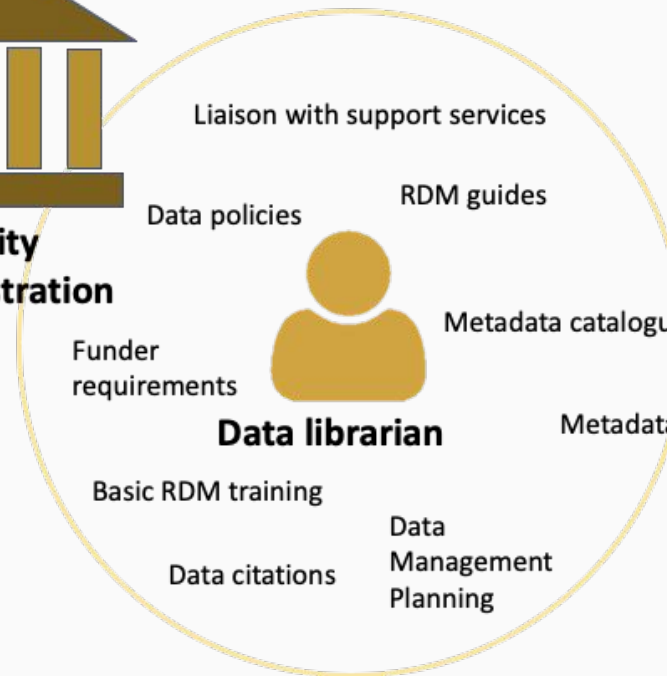
*Can also be called: liaison librarian, information specialist*

Traditional RDM role in libraries

Important role as intermediary along university service units around research data management (IT, research office, etc.)



**University  
administration**



Liaison with support services

Data policies

RDM guides

Funder  
requirements

Metadata catalogu

Metadata

**Data librarian**

Basic RDM training

Data citations

Data  
Management  
Planning

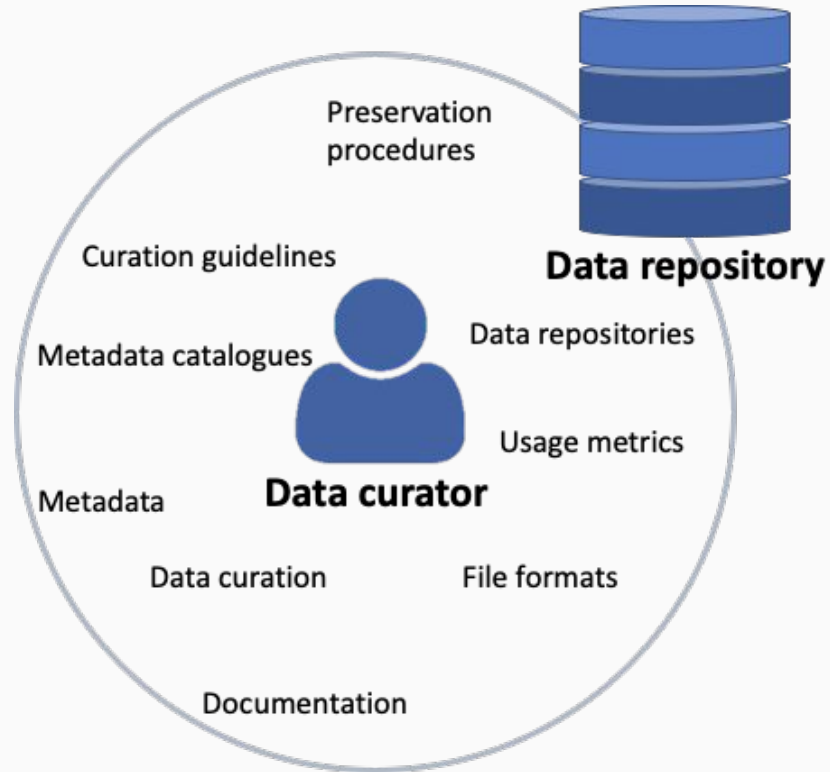
# Data curator

*Can also be called: data steward, data archivist*

Helps with data curation & preservation

Important role as data documentation and metadata expert

Provides training and guidance



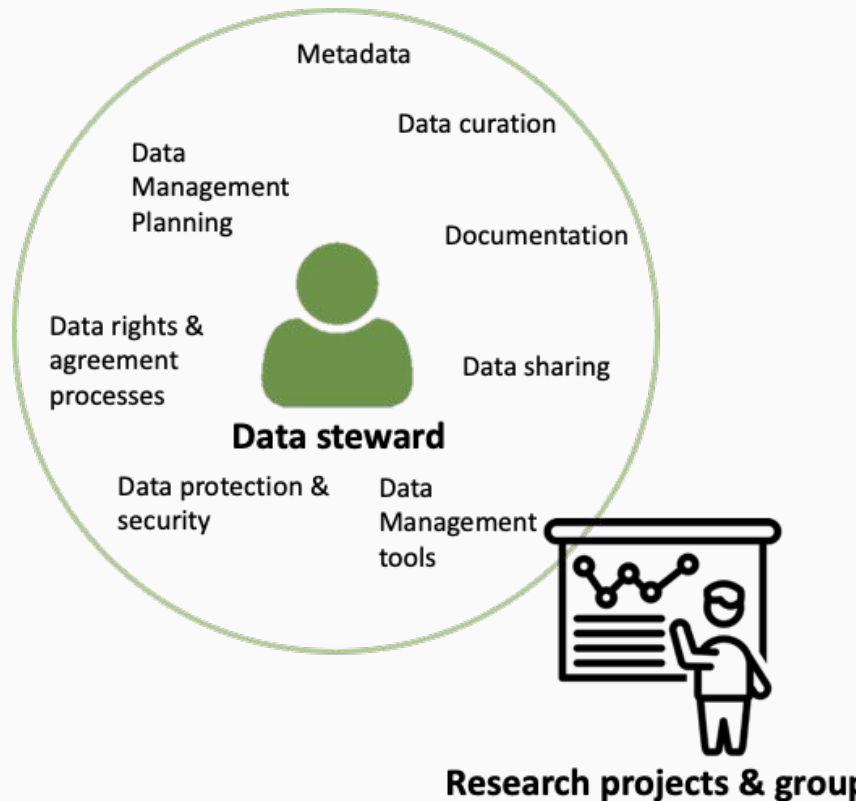
# Data steward

*Can also be called: data manager*

Works with research projects' practical data management challenges

Develops good research workflows and practices

Has knowledge of data management traditions and practices in the research field

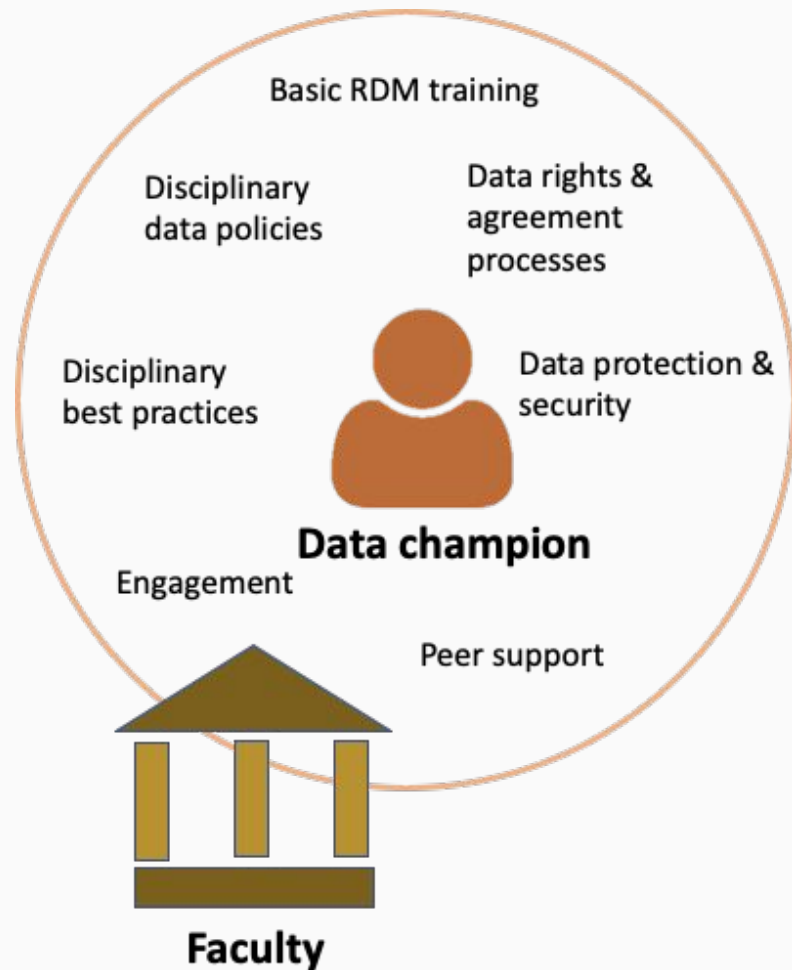


# Data champion

*Can also be called: data steward, data advisor, data agent*

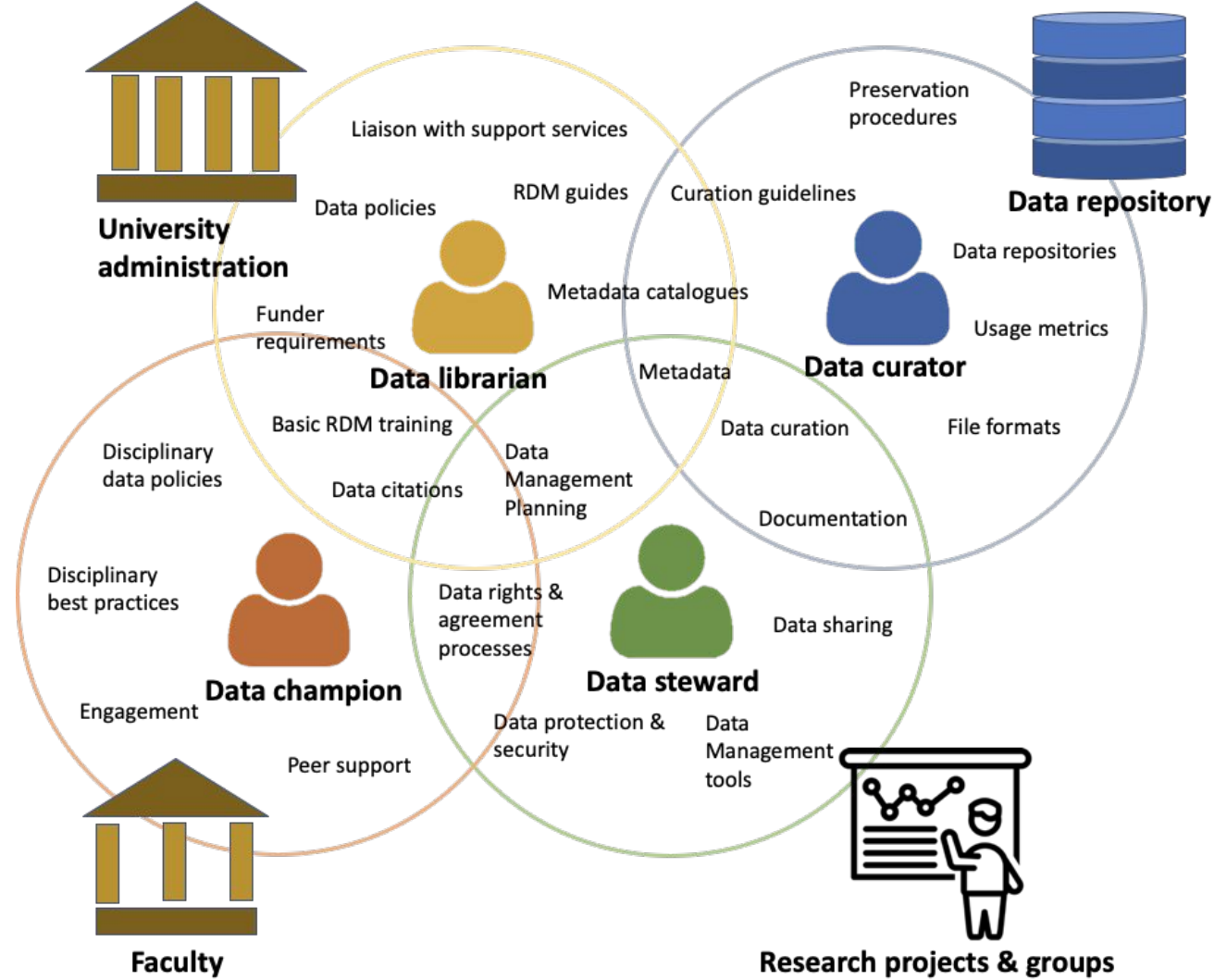
Important role in research engagement and marketing

An embedded part time role of a person with research background



Which of these roles can be in a library?

Which of these roles can be coordinated by a library?



# Join the discussion!

Future library professions will be created today



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## Thank you!

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