

RDM Community (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

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## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The research data management (RDM) community at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) was initiated in 2019, facilitated by the university library. The community helps researchers perform efficient and high-quality research, meet the expectations of research funders, and comply with legislation (such as the European General Data Protection Regulation). We focus on the organization of research data, from proposal writing to the dissemination and archiving of results. The community stimulates interactions and knowledge exchange between VU support personnel and researchers interested in open science, reproducible research, and data management, and support staff at VU. Community members attend various events, such as monthly Data Conversations meetings, and the core community uses a Slack workspace.

► Website: <https://ub.vu.nl/en/university-library-for-researchers/research-data-support/data-stewards-and-data-conversations/index.aspx>

## KEYWORDS

### Disciplines / skills

► RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

### Programming and goals

► STANDARD SETTING

► INFRASTRUCTURE

DEVELOPMENT

► KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

► OUTREACH AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

► OPEN SCIENCE

### Stakeholder relationships

► FACULTY-STAFF

## COMMUNITY BASICS



12\* core members

300\*-person broader reach

\*these numbers are an estimate



In person only\*

\*all activities were online during the COVID-19 pandemic



Local

(within the university)



Open

(anyone can join)

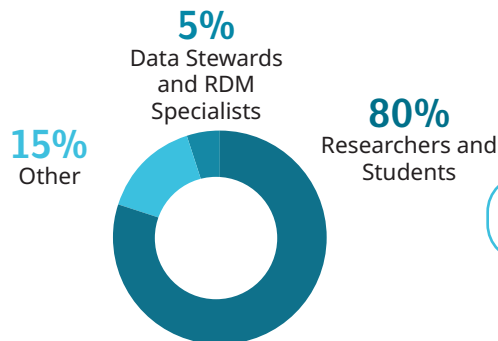
## COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

### Community Management

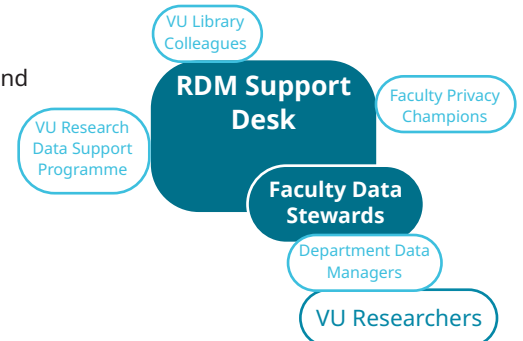
Community management is provided by the .9 FTE RDM **Community Manager** whose responsibilities also include coordinating the RDM help desk at the library.



### Members



### Community Configuration

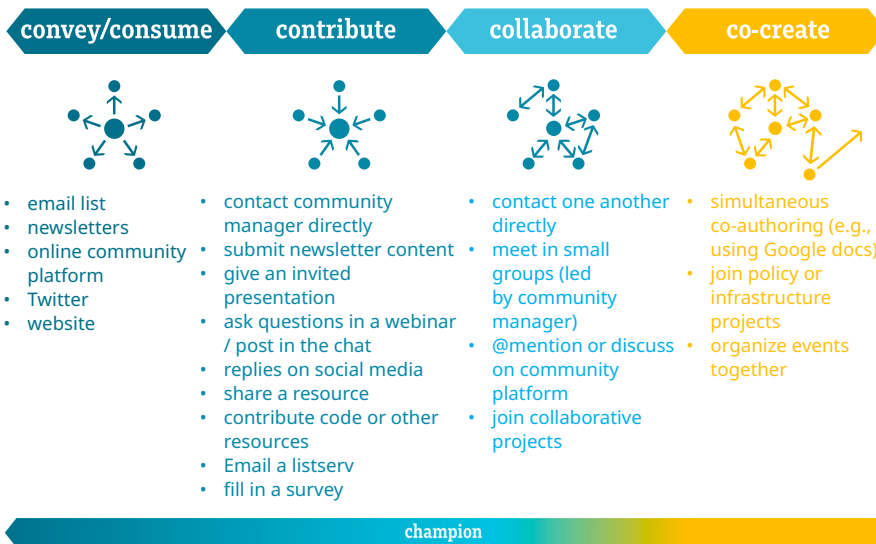


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## PROGRAMMING

Programming includes a bi-monthly newsletter, emails about upcoming and past events, and a Twitter channel. There are monthly calls for the support staff, monthly Data Conversations directed towards researchers, and monthly meetings for the data stewards. The core of the community uses Slack, with channels such as #events, #research\_drive, etc. Community members use Google Drive to share notes from the calls, outputs of collaborations, and any resources they have developed.



## **i** THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION MODEL

The CSCCE Community Participation Model describes four modes of member engagement that can occur within a community – CONVEY/CONSUME, CONTRIBUTE, COLLABORATE, and CO-CREATE – and one that can occur both inside and outside of it: CHAMPION. All modes may be present at once, with some members interacting in multiple modes – or a community may have member engagement that falls into only some of the modes described. The model enables the mapping of community member behaviors to programming and other infrastructural support that the community manager, convening organization, or funder may provide to the community.

► For more information, see the [CSCCE community participation model](#).



## COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

The RDM Community at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam doesn't currently have a formal champions program but is planning to create one. Informal champions may act in the following ways:

**i** CHAMPIONS take on additional activities to support or advance the community. They are sometimes described as emergent leaders.



- N/A



- reshare the newsletter
- recruit new members



- N/A

## COMMUNITY TOOLBOX

### Communications

Email	Slack
Twitter	MS Teams
Zoom	

### Productivity

Google Drive

### Community platform

Slack

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## OUTPUTS & EVALUATION

Success looks like information flow between different services, collaborations are possible, and members know how to find each other. There is experience and knowledge exchange.



### Successes over the last year

Over the last year we added a lot of new members, implemented regular meetings, and adopted Slack as a communication channel. The community was mentioned at various national and international events.

- **Growth** – adding new members
- **Activities** – creating community outputs together e.g. publications
- **Activity** – hosted an event
- **Value** - external recognition
- **Value** - members expressing recognition of the community's value



### Evaluation and Reporting

- Do not evaluate



### Opportunities

We want to start a champion program, as well as encourage more researchers to join our meetings

- **Growth** – add additional sub-communities
- **Growth** – add new members
- **Engagement** – more members acting as champions



### Challenges

There is not enough clarity about the role of the community in ongoing projects. Feedback from the community manager is sought too late or is not applied in a meaningful way.

- Low activity from community members
- Lack of clarity about community goals

## FUNDING

**100%**  
Parent  
Organization



### Funding Streams

- 100% funding from VU Amsterdam

Members can apply for **stipends for course and trainings** through the RDM community.

## ABOUT THIS PROFILE

This profile is part of a research project conducted by the Center for Scientific Collaboration and Community Engagement (CSCCE). You can find out more about the project, and view more community profiles, [on our website](#).

Information for this profile was submitted by Lena Karvovskaya, RDM Community Manager.

**Last updated:** 14 June 2021

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