Trust Support and Collaboration

Future Networks, Disciplinary Curation and Preservation Expertise including CoreTrustSeal and FAIR.

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Trust and Digital Preservation

Trust is a critical component in digital preservation and can be traced back to the development of the OAIS model developed by the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS).

The concept of trust has led to the development of a number of different, formal standards provided by organisations offering trustworthy digital repository certification. Examples include:
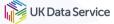
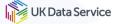The CoreTrustSeal

ISO 16363

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The CoreTrustSeal

The CoreTrustSeal focuses on 16 'Core Requirements' concerning long-term digital preservation best practice.

The CoreTrustSeal's 16 requirements cover three broad areas:

- Organisational Infrastructure
- Digital Object Management
- Technical Environment

Support Programmes

A variety of projects and initiatives have and offer support programmes to assist repositories in obtaining Trustworthy Digital Repository certification.

The support programmes typically involving a mix of workshops, webinars and one-to-one guidance.

Examples of projects that have offered support in obtaining CoreTrustSeal Certification include:

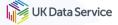**SSHOC** — Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud project

EOSC NORDIC — European Open Science Cloud Nordic project

FAIRSFAIR — Fostering FAIR Data Practices in Europe project

Potential Issues

Potential issues associated with certification support programmes providing one-to-one guidance, group workshops and webinars include:

- Programmes are typically **time-limited in nature.**

- **Maintaining professional relationships** developed during the programme once the programme ends.

- Obtaining the **resources and/or funding** required to successfully submit an application for, and receive CoreTrustSeal certification within a set period of time.

Possible Solution...

...a Network of FAIR Enabling Trusted Digital Repositories

A network of FAIR enabling Trusted Digital Repositories could help address the time-limited nature of the of certification support programmes by featuring an informal sub-group of peers that provide support to repositories who wish to obtain CoreTrustSeal certification.

An informal sub-group within the wider network could be led by a subscribing list of community leaders who have expertise in digital preservation required to help others in obtaining CoreTrustSeal certification.

By combining the two would help foster collective community action leading to greater community cohesion and increased uptake of formal Trusted Digital Repository certification.

Overcoming the Challenges of FAIR Data

One of the challenges associated with FAIR data is disciplinary curation.

The FAIR data principles are discipline-agnostic, which presents a challenge to reaching a community consensus on the agreed terminology for specialist and generalist repositories.

Desk research conducted by the SSHOC Task 8.2 team found significant variation in the terminology used to describe the data held by the repositories that were included in the research.

Survey research also conducted by the SSHOC Task 8.2 team found that respondents used a multitude of different terms to describe domain, discipline, subject area and specialism.
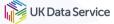
Considerations

- Would the community find this method of peer-to-peer informal support useful as an addition to the current methods e.g. time limited one-to-one support programmes?

- Would the community find an informal group offering peer-to-peer support as part of a wider network of FAIR enabling Trusted Digital Repositories beneficial?

- Would aspiring repositories find it helpful to have support targeted at the more technical elements of implementing a 'service' / 'repository structure?
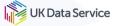
Conclusion

- Work still to be done in relation to the FAIR Data principles, alongside further work around increasing the uptake of best practice and digital repository standards, all of which hinge upon ongoing input from the community.

- Assessing repositories is not the only angle to increasing FAIR repository practice; assessing digital objects (e.g. for how FAIR they are) is another valuable learning tool for repositories.

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