



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Research Data Management Practices

CAUL 2008/2

Darwin

19 September 2008

Emphasis on building capability

- how
and
- how best

Just one example

Data Management Planning Framework developed at ANU

- includes training course offered through Information Literacy Program

The Context

Similar initiatives at Monash, University of Queensland and elsewhere

Online Research Collections Australia (ORCA), developed as an APSR program

- ORCA Registry
- ORCA Support Network
 - Outreach forums
 - Training agenda
 - Consulting

ORCA Training Agenda

Aim

To address the full suite of data-related skills for eResearch including the collecting, description, manipulation, and long-term curation of digital research materials

through

series of workshops, courses and seminars presented at Universities of Melbourne, Sydney and Queensland on such topics as

- digital preservation management
- developing a data management plan
- cultural informatics for humanities scholars

Also

Survey of data management practices at three Australian universities (University of Melbourne, University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology)

Investigating Data Management Practices in Australian Universities (July 2008)

http://www.apsr.edu.au/investigating_data_management

and

Development of Data Management Planning Framework at ANU comprising training materials and, in particular, a Data Management Manual

- although developed at ANU, all materials to be made available for use and adaptation by other universities

Data Management Planning Framework

Developed by Mark Euston, PhD student within ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science

Central document

ANU Data Management Manual: Managing Digital Research Data at the Australian National University
(August 2008)

<http://ilp.anu.edu.au/dm>

A WORD version for downloading and local adaptation available at

http://www.apsr.edu.au/orca/data_management_planning.htm

Stated objectives of Framework

To enable researchers to

- understand what research data is and why it needs to be managed
- appreciate legal, institutional and funding issues related to data
- learn how various data management methods can help them work more effectively with their data
- use data management services at ANU
- write a data management plan

Data Management Manual

addresses objectives in five chapters on

- data management
- benefits and requirements
- methods of data management
- ANU's data management services
- writing a data management plan

with appendices on

- data management policies
- copyright licences

GILP (Graduate Information Literacy Program) Data Management Course

- workshop and online
- aimed at beginning PhD candidates
- workshop comprises
 - presentation
 - demonstrations
 - one-on-one discussions
- materials available from ILP Data Management Planning website <http://ilp.anu.edu.au/dm>
 - data management manual
 - data management course slides
 - data management plan template

Success a matter of incentives

Benefits of data management identified as

- efficiency of research through good organisation, collaboration and documentation of data
- protection of data against loss, becoming unusable, forgotten or improperly released
- quality of data through adoption of procedures to ensure accuracy and authenticity
- exposure of research outcomes through collaboration with others and dissemination of results and publications

Data archiving and sharing seen to

- reinforce open scientific inquiry
- encourage diversity of analysis and opinion
- promote new research and allow for the testing of new or alternative methods
- improve methods of data collection and measurement through the scrutiny of others
- reduce costs by avoiding duplication of data collection efforts
- provide important resource for training in research

Compliance

Good data management enables compliance with both local and national funding and policy obligations and requirements

Thank you

Vic Elliott
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