IRIDIUM Project

The IRIDIUM project at Newcastle University (IRIDIUM, 2011) has the stated aim: "... to produce a complete holistic plan and infrastructure for Research Data Management in the University, making data generated by research at the University both available and discoverable with effective curation throughout the full data lifecycle in consultation with the researchers who produce it."

To achieve this goal, an extensive consultation period with researchers from all schools and levels was undertaken, including semi-structured interviews and surveys.

- Produces a rich output that reflects real opinions.
- Output is a very large corpus of data.
- Qualitative techniques allow the most salient points to emerge.
- Enables distillation of this large corpus of user data into something manageable and most importantly actionable (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Jansen, 2010; Neuman, 2006).

Thematic Analysis

- The categorisation of data into meaningful categories or themes – Can have deductive and / or inductive stages.
- Deductive stage uses predetermined themes and produces an initial classification.
- Deductive phase allows large data corpus to be refined down so that it is manageable for the inductive phase, where a single researcher can generate new themes from the whole data set.
- Inductive stage is directly informed by the data and produces more well defined classification based on data rather than preconceptions. (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Process

1. Interviews were conducted across a wide range of users within the university – from PhD students to Professors and Deans. 30+ interviews took place, conducted by post graduate students.
2. Interviews were recorded and transcribed by the interviewer.
3. The Interviewer then conducted a deductive thematic analysis using the predetermined themes: Perception, Purpose, People, Process and Provoking.

Interim Findings

The collation of the classification data shows the distribution of themes – providing indicators for the next phase of analysis.

Final Themes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longevity / Life Cycle</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing and Collaboration</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Process Continued

4. Single Researcher combines outputs and performs Inductive Thematic Analysis – generating new well defined themes.

References