Institutional Research Data Management at Newcastle University

Newcastle University

Lindsay Wood, Simon Kometa, Paul Thompson and Megan Quentin-Baxter on behalf of iridium project (http://research.ncl.ac.uk/iridium/)

Background

- effective institutional management of research data assets retention and discoverability is required by Funding Councils and to maintain University reputation and competitiveness
- the University is addressing these research data management (RDM) drivers initially through the Jisc-funded iridium project from October 2011 to June 2013
- key project outputs and on-going development of the business case proposal for their sustainability are reported

Key outputs

RDM requirements gathering from our research community and assessment of RDM tools has provided an evidence base for our project recommendations. Key outputs are:

Draft RDM policy: Policy has been put forward for open consultation supported by a Code of Good Practice. Draft RDM policy: Outputs have been proof-of-concept tools, technical specifications and evaluation of fitness for purpose (Figures 1a-e).

RDM support: Guidance materials have been authored to deliver the human support aspects of policy implementation and end user understanding of pilot tools. These include workshop materials, online training and tools documentation that are delivered through a specific RDM support website (Figure 1f).

RDM business case: Drafting will be completed by the end of April 2013 and will cover policy drivers, strategic direction alignment, options/benefits, dependencies, impacts, financial implications and timescales.

Overall, resulting from project, there is a greater institutional understanding of the RDM domain and the scale of the challenges.

Sustainability of outputs

- embedding RDM training within staff induction/development programmes and postgraduate training modules will be recommended
- overall researchers have vocalised a desire for institutional guidance on and support for RDM
- increased national demand for more transparency of publicly funded research outputs
- business case will outline sustainability and ‘cost of not doing’

RDM infrastructure legacy

- recommendations on the transition of project outputs to a cohesive RDM infrastructure will be made in the project final report, outlining continuation of the draft policy, tools and human support infrastructure development, together with a roadmap for implementation within the business case
- considerable RDM expertise among project team members

References

1. University Research Office, the Digital Institute, the University Library, Information Systems & Services and MEDEV, School of Medical Sciences Education Development (http://research.ncl.ac.uk/iridium/)
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