

# University of Oxford

## Research Data Management Support

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2014

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Dr James A J Wilson, University of Oxford IT Services  
*RDM Support Services, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2014*



Research  
Services



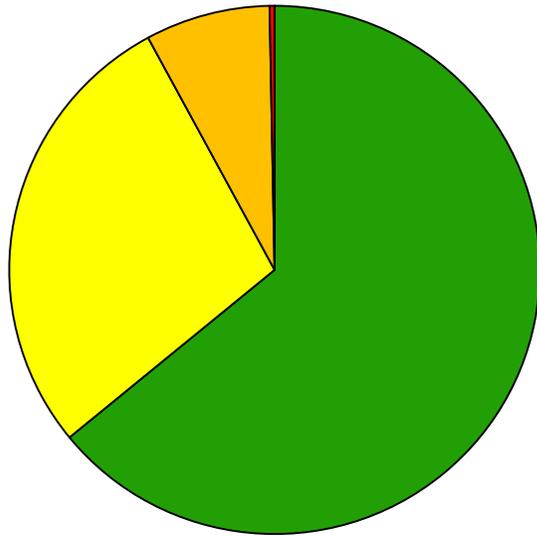
# What is Research Data Management (RDM)?

May cover a wide range of activities...



# Situation in Oxford at end of 2012

## Importance of RDM

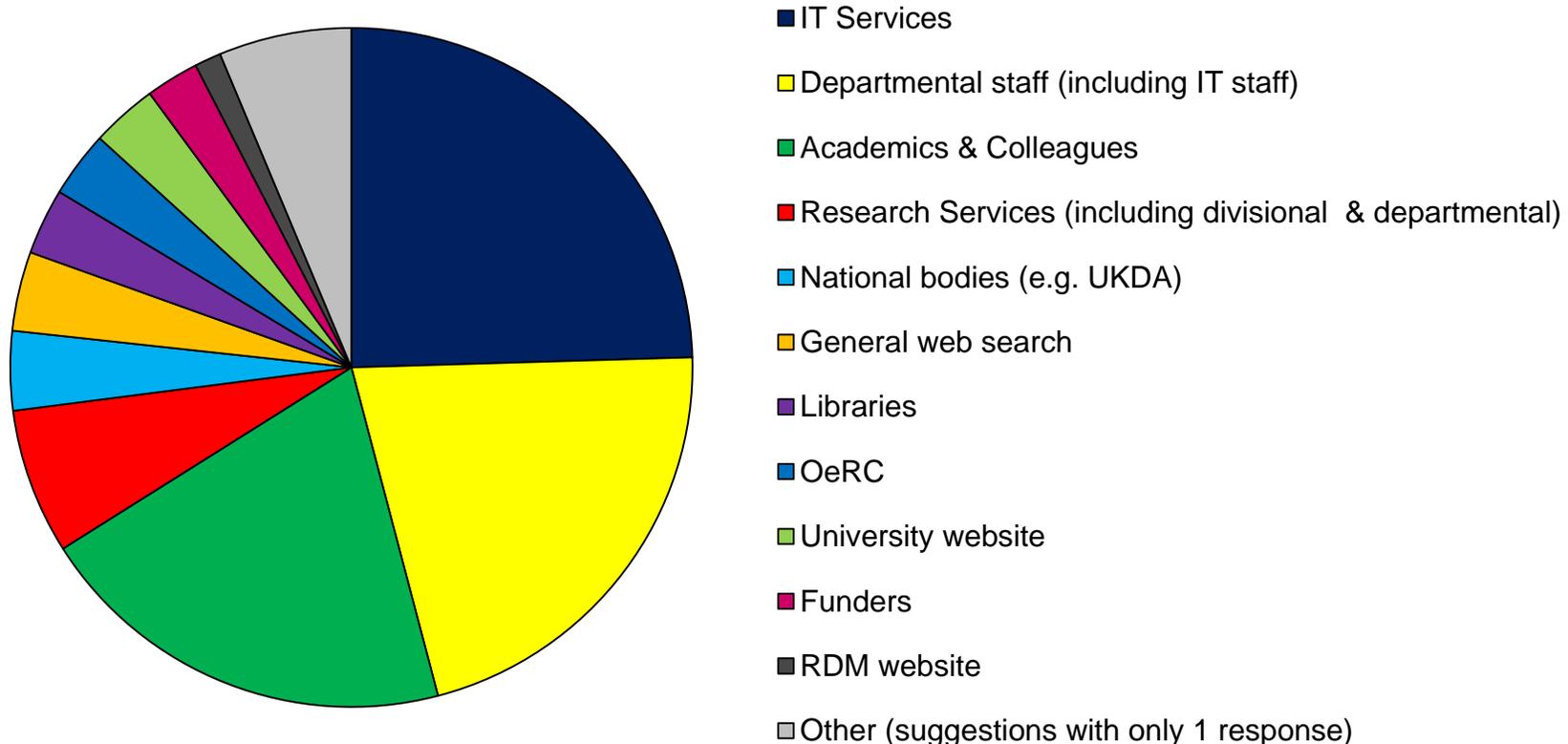


- Essential -- My research would suffer significantly if my data were not properly managed
- Important -- My research benefits from the time spent managing data
- Helpful up to a point -- Time spent managing research data can make life easier further down the line, but it's not a very significant aspect of research
- Not important -- Devoting time to managing research data would be a distraction from the real work of research

- Fewer than a quarter of researchers had received any information about RDM from the University
- A majority of scientists had received no formal training in:
  - Data management planning
  - Organising or structuring data
  - Version control
  - Secure data storage & back up
  - Data sharing
  - Documenting data
  - Preparing data for long-term preservation
  - Intellectual property issues relating to data

# Where do researchers turn for help?

“Do you know where you would go for help if you needed help writing a data management plan?”  
(results of 2012 survey)



# Existing expertise does exist

- Many people within the University have expertise in aspects of research data management, although none are experts in *every* aspect of research data management

**IT Services staff** know about: software, storage, infrastructure, back-up, databases, XML, etc.

**Libraries staff** know about: metadata standards, repositories, data discovery, long-term preservation and curation, specialist software, etc.

**Research Services staff** know about: research administration, proposals, grants, funder mandates, legal requirements, etc.

**Academic staff** know about: community practices and expectations, research processes, data analysis and visualization, and, of course, the problems they face

# Coordination

- Website – [www.researchdata.ox.ac.uk](http://www.researchdata.ox.ac.uk)
- Single point of contact for researchers – [researchdata@ox.ac.uk](mailto:researchdata@ox.ac.uk)
- Awareness of who are the ‘experts’, via a ‘directory of expertise’
  - We’re using a list in a shared Google Doc consisting of: name, email address, department, area(s) of expertise
- Staff mailing list for discussing issues
- RT queue for handling enquiries, visible to everyone in the support group
  - Tickets taken by the person best positioned to help (or available)



### Data Support Services for Researchers



**About RDM**  
An introduction to research data management, including policy expectations from some of Oxford's main funders.



**Working with data**  
Guidance and links to tools and resources to help you manage your data day-to-day and at the project planning stage.



**Sharing data**  
General guidance on sharing data - what to take into account, licensing, citing and depositing your data.



**Tools, services and training**  
Find out about Oxford tools to help with data management and sharing as well as training on offer.

### Useful Links

- Ask a question - [Contact Us](#)
- University RDM policy - [download or view](#)
- Find out what funders expect - [see the funder policies page](#)
- Latest news - [Read the Oxford Research Data blog](#)

### Please help us improve this site

Name

Email

Message

### Research Data Blog

- [New RDM course listing page](#)  
Feb 04, 2014
- [Planning, Appraising, Ingesting and Documenting Data: UK Data Archive Training Workshop](#)

### RDM Directory of Expertise

University of Oxford  
last updated: 12/03/2014

Name	Department	Skills and Areas of Expertise
James A J Wilson <a href="mailto:james.wilson@it.ox.ac.uk">james.wilson@it.ox.ac.uk</a>	IT Services - Research Support Group	General RDM issues and background Researcher requirements & behaviours Data management planning Organizing data RDM projects Tools and software for RDM ORDS DataFinder Advising researchers
Meriel Patrick <a href="mailto:meriel.patrick@it.ox.ac.uk">meriel.patrick@it.ox.ac.uk</a>	IT Services - Research Support Group	RDM training Advising researchers Sources of guidance and advice Humanities research Researcher requirements & behaviours Organizing data Tools and software for RDM RDM projects ORDS

**Ticket #10454**  
The Dance  
Status: open  
Priority: 0  
Queue: researchdata

**Assign To**  
Owner: James A J Wilson  
Responsible: samrah ahmed  
Cc: Admin-Cc

**Users**  
Groups this user belongs to:  
Everyone  
@groupofad

**Comments**  
No comment entered about this user  
This user is not an active user

**History**  
Mon Apr 14 10:43:31 2014 samrah ahmed - Ticket created  
Subject: database  
Date: Mon, 14 Apr 2014 09:43:28 +0000  
To: "researchdata@it.ox.ac.uk" <researchdata@it.ox.ac.uk>  
From: Samrah Ahmed <samrah.ahmed@itdn.ox.ac.uk>

Dear Colleague,  
Would you be able to advise on how to improve and secure a research database we have created in-house. It has been built in Access. While it is functional, we have reached our capacity in terms of being able to modify it to our needs. Would you be able to assist?  
Best wishes

**Dr James A J Wilson, University of Oxford IT Services**  
**RDM Support Services, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2014**



**Research Services**



# What do researchers ask?

- What is the best way to share research data with collaborators? Is DropBox ok?
- How can I back up and archive my data?
- How can I make my data searchable/minable?
- How do I deposit my data in repository x?
- How should I structure/store the data I'm gathering?
- What technologies are available and what does the faculty support?
- Where can I keep my data for x years?
- Is the network file store compliant with x?
- Where can I lodge my data - my journal wants to know before accepting for publication
- Why is your data store so expensive when I can buy a 1Tb drive for £60?
- Questions relating to storage capacity
- Does the University provide tools for sharing large datasets?
- Can you help us set up a data sharing contract?
- How should we go about setting up a data management infrastructure for our research group?
- How can we improve and secure a research database we have built in-house?
- I need to submit my application for a 5-year European research project tomorrow. How much should I budget for IT and data management?

# Issues faced

- Finding an appropriate tool for cross-departmental collaboration
- Many researchers just want ‘general’ advice
  - Requires a few people who are prepared to take the initiative and just put themselves on the spot
  - Need to share wisdom for future reference
- Some enquiries are very technical
  - Need to be able to call on people not generally part of research data management support team
- Not always clear where responsibilities of academic departments ends and central services begins
- Whom to include in the support team?

# Questions?

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