



UNIVERSITY OF  
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# Research Data Management

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# What is Research Data Management?

Research Data Management (RDM) is a general term covering how you organize, structure, store and care for the information used or generated during a research project.

It includes **how you deal with information on a day-to-day basis** over the lifetime of a project as well as **what happens to data in the longer term** - what you do with it after the project concludes.



# Why should you manage your data?

- ❑ Reduce risk of data loss,
- ❑ Improve research processes and continuity of work,
- ❑ Facilitate sharing and re-use of research data for future research (within a research group or with the whole scientific community to deliver best value for (funding) money).



# Why should you share your data?

- ❑ Improves research integrity and validation and reproducibility of results  
(RCUK principles on data: “*published results should always include information on how to access the supporting data*”),
- ❑ Enhances visibility of all your research outputs and increases citations,
- ❑ Provides opportunities for collaboration,
- ❑ Enables compliance with funders and journal policies  
(e.g. RCUK principle “*Data should be made openly available with as few restrictions as possible in a timely and responsible manner.*”).



# Where to start? - Data Management Plans

- A data management plan (DMP) is a document that describes how data will be collected, organised, managed, stored, secured, backed- up, preserved, and where applicable, shared.



# Key points of a DMP

**What?** Are your data and how are they documented?

**Why?** Do you need to manage and share them?

**Where?** Will you store them?

**When?** For how long do you need to keep them?

**Who?** Can access the data and under which conditions?



# Funder expectations

## □ NERC:

- **DMP**: outline DMP upon application, full DMP three months into the project.
- **Costs**: resources needed to implement the DMP must be identified in the application.
- **Data deposit**: Data should be shared through one of the NERC data centres.



# Funder expectations

## □ BBSRC:

- **DMP:** 1 page DMP required upon application
- **Data deposit:** Data should be released in a timely and responsible manner, no later than the publication of main findings or within three years of data generation.





# Funder expectations

## □ EPSRC

- **DMP:** No DMP required upon application, but EPSRC expects one to be in place.
- **Data deposit:** Metadata describing research data needs to be published within 12 months of data generation. Research data should be published no later than the publication of findings.



# Funder expectations

## □ ESRC:

- **DMP:** A DMP of max. 3 pages is required.
- **Costs:** funding will be provided if costs have been included in the DMP.
- **Data deposit:** Data should be made available through the ESRC data service providers (UK Data Service) or an appropriate repository within 3 months of the end of the grant.



# Funder expectations

- Wellcome Trust:
  - **DMP**: required as part of the application.
  - **Costs**: Resources for data management can be requested.
  - **Data deposit**: Data should, if possible, be made available at the same time as the findings are published.
- Leverhulme Trust: no formal data policy



# Referee feedback

*“Such testing requires a plan for archiving and accessing experimental findings”*

*“Without adequate DMP in place at the very start of these large, multidisciplinary projects, data transfers among working groups can be constrained”*

*“I would urge the applicant to give further thought to planning their data management and model tests”*

*“[projects] in which data archiving was planned in advance of field operations have enabled important advances in model development and testing”*



# Institutional expectations

- UoB Research Data Management Policy; new version approved in January 2017
- Code of Practice for Research
- UoB Data Protection Policy



# UoB support services

- DMPOnline: <https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/>
- Browser based tool, providing
  - DMP templates for all RCUK funders, H2020, Wellcome Trust and CRUK,
  - DCC guidance on best practice DMPs and, if available, funder specific guidance,
  - Collaboration and export functions,
  - links to UoB specific guidance and standard answers if you use UoB services for storage or data publication.



# UoB IT Support for storage and backup

- ❑ BEAR Data Share – Dropbox-like solution which allows you to share data internally or externally. Currently 20 GB FREE.
- ❑ Research Data Store – is where you can store up to 3TB FREE for working data for up to 5 years. If you require more space, contact IT Services.
- ❑ Research Data Archive – is where you can store data underpinning your publication.



# Further questions?

- ❑ Library Services intranet pages on Research Data Management:  
<http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/rdm>
- ❑ Online training:  
<https://canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/CHEEPR>
- ❑ Contact email: [research-data@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:research-data@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

