Data Management Skills Support Initiative (DaMSSI)

This work jointly funded by the Research Information Network (RIN) and Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)

research information network

JISC

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The Data Management Skills Support Initiative ('DaMSSI')

- Part of JISC Managing Research Data programme (04/2010 call)

- JISC Research Data Management Training Materials ('RDMTrain') programme strand – support project

- 5 RDMTrain projects – postgraduate training materials – 6 disciplines
  - Creative and performing arts
  - Social and political sciences inc. social anthropology
  - Psychology inc. clinical psychology
  - Geosciences
  - Archaeology
  - Health sciences

Background

- Research data management skills not currently widely embedded in UK postgraduate training

- Agreement needed on what constitutes a basic set of postgraduate data management skills

  - Consistent descriptions of skills

  - Framework that supports progression of skills over time

- Two recently developed models may be able to help:

  - Vitae's Researcher Development Framework

  - 'Research lens' for SCONUL's Seven Pillars model

Research data management and information literacy

- **CILIP definition of IL**: "Information literacy is knowing when and why you need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner". (http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/advocacy/information-literacy/pages/default.aspx)

- **JISC's 'i-skills'**: "the ability to identify, assess, retrieve, evaluate, adapt, organise and communicate information within an iterative context of review and reflection." http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/JISC-SISS-Investing-v1-09.pdf

- **RIN definition of IL builds on these and includes data management**:

"…for the purposes of RIN's approach to the issue, it is important to adopt a broader interpretation of information literacy, which (i) recognises that 'information' must be taken to include research data; and (ii) clearly also encompasses the ability to manage, and where appropriate preserve and curate one's own information and data." http://www.rin.ac.uk/our-work/researcher-development-and-skills/what-is-information-literacy
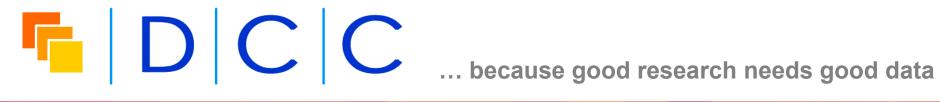
DaMSSI overall objectives

- To facilitate the use of tools like the Seven Pillars and the Researcher Development Framework for planning data management skills training

- To test effectiveness of Seven Pillars and the Framework for consistently mapping and describing skills and development paths in UK HEI postgraduate courses

Key work areas

- Support for RDMTrain projects in using the models to provide consistent training output descriptions

- Mapping of projects' training materials to identify generic / discipline-specific skills

- Comparison / synthesis of mappings from the projects

- Recommendations for Vitae and SCONUL

- Career profiles

- Recommendations for professional bodies and LIS course providers

Recommendations

Main output of the project: 19 recommendations.

Also, specific feedback to Vitae and SCONUL

The models (Researcher Development Framework and Seven Pillars of Information Literacy) were:

• Useful for consistently describing learning outcomes of courses

• Useful for embedding courses within institutions' continuing professional development / skills training curriculum

But …

Specific feedback to Vitae and SCONUL, cont.

But, there was a need:

• For an information-handling data management lens for the Vitae RDF

• For improved language / terminology for the models (i.e. non-specific language that can make sense to researchers from all disciplines)

• To reflect all stages of the data curation lifecycle.

Positive responses from Vitae and SCONUL

• Seven Pillars now with added data management skills

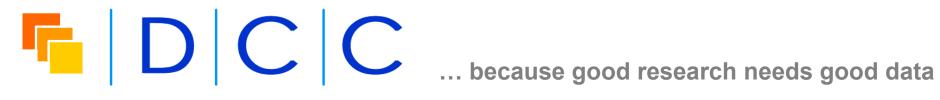• Vitae working on new information literacy lens for the Framework

Achievements

- Researcher career development models will incorporate data management skills

- Value of generic and discipline-specific data management skills in successful training is established

- Engagement with professional bodies

Future activities

- Engagement with professional bodies

- RIN Information-Handling Working Group

- Digital Curation Centre

- DPOE and DigCurV

DaMSSI recommendations and career profiles available online at:

Digital Curation Centre:
http://tinyurl.com/DaMSSI-DCC

Research Information Network:
http://tinyurl.com/DaMSSI-RIN

Thank you for listening!

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