Data management support as core business of research libraries

Lessons learned at Radboud University Library

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Archiving data as key condition to open science

To be honest.... research data management hasn't been very user-friendly

“Don’t make me use yet another system”
“This is just administrative overhead”
“I would like to have one office for all my questions”

Findable
Accessible
Interoperable
Reusable
Case study: Radboud University (Library)

Organisational structure

Temporary projects

Structural component

Radboud University Library as a one-stop-shop for research data management support
Role Radboud University Library (1)

The library as a one-stop-shop for research data management support: how did we get there?

Starting point: General RDM policy, November 2013
   Difficulties: Not practical enough, RDM too new, too little awareness

Filling the gap: Jumping in the gap between theory and practice
   Why the library? Linking pin, intensive contacts with researchers, support as traditional task

Drawback: No natural partner for policy makers, IT and researchers
   Why not? Library isn’t about RDM (researchers); library has no idea about needs researchers
             (policy makers, IT, researchers)

Solution: Building expertise and trust
   How? Interviews (researchers); intensive talks (policy makers, IT); staff with research experience;
         active attitude; building a symbiotic relation with policy makers and IT as well
Role Radboud University Library (2)

Fase 1. Researchers came to the library
• Funder and journal policies → focus more on DMParagraphs/DMPlans and storage
• Library provided structural information: formats, workshops, website
→ Founding of an Expert Centre Research Data at the University Library (a rather isolated service)

Fase 2. Policy makers came to the library
• Support necessary for infrastructural projects to succeed
• Library: contacts, support as traditional task, linking pin
→ Founding of a RIS service desk at the University Library (embedded in RDM program, which makes it easier for the Library to offer support)
Radboud University Library as linking pin

Towards IT
• We are familiar with the language of the research community (they aren’t)

Towards policy makers
• Practical, benefit-for-researcher approach (instead of compliance approach)
• We give flesh and bones to policy (basically: we’ll do anything you ask us to)

Towards researchers
• We are part of the in-group (we know their needs and speak their language)
• Traditional library task (support and information services)
• The library as accessible and approachable
What RDM services do we offer (1)

Supporting researchers with
- writing data management paragraphs/plans
- finding existing data
- solving ethical issues
- safely collecting and storing data during research
- archiving data, including documentation and metadata
- complying to funder, journal and university requirements

For this, we offer workshops, individual support and eLearning
What RDM services do we offer (2)

We also offer something out of the ordinary.... at least at Radboud University

• Together with the policy department: checklist to support research institutes in developing their disciplinary policies and protocols (see ris.ru.nl)
  Offering further support in setting up these policies

• Why the library?
  - Familiar with various types of data (research background)
  - Aware of RDM and infrastructural possibilities
  - We offer visible information services and training
  - Most importantly: we give them the feeling they don’t have to do it all alone!

• Additional initiatives, such as exploring the consequences of the new EU law on privacy protection, how to handle qualitative data, what are adequate archives, and who has ownership of research data
What RDM services do we offer (3)

And there is more out of the ordinary ...

Radboud University's infrastructural solution for all long tail data, integrated in the (C)RIS:
Researcher: a one-stop-shop for registering and uploading publications and data sets
Policy makers: quality check and overview of archived data

The library offers:
• RIS service desk
• website
• quality check (preferred formats, anonymity and documentation)
• front office back office model with Dutch national data archive DANS EASY
**Challenges**

All aforementioned services are in project phase, except the structural role of the library

**Question**: what will the future **role of the library** be when the infrastructural projects are fully embedded?

**Disciplinary RDM support**
- Will the research institutes appoint own data stewards?
- Or will they hesitate to invest in services that are already provided by the library?

**Information vs. people**
- Did we provide so much information (website, formats, eLearning) that we will outplay ourselves?
- Or are our services so vital that we are still in the game?

**Lesson learned**: as university library, to become indispensable in RDM support, make sure to establish such adequate services that your role cannot be overlooked by policy makers
Questions?
Don’t hesitate to ask them!

More information?
Have a look at ris.ru.nl
or contact us at ris@ubn.ru.nl