Shortly after, the deans and scientific directors decided to initiate the formulation of faculty-specific data policies. UL information specialists in discussion meetings with faculty professors. The final version of the university data policy was accepted by the Executive Board in July 2015. Fifteen professors from different scientific disciplines were interviewed about data-management practice and policy. Based on the university Board formally requested the University Library to write the University of Twente data policy.

**SUMMARY**

**DATA-POLICY DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE**

Scientific disciplines should determine the best way to manage research data in their field, but the free availability of research data should be standard. At the University of Twente, managing research data is the shared responsibility of the researcher and the organization(s) affiliated with the research, namely research group, research institute, faculty, and university. In light of this shared responsibility for RDM, the formulation and implementation of faculty-level data policies is initiated and organized by each faculty’s management.

**RDM-course development at the University of Twente**

The University Library developed a general RDM course for PhD students, in which they write their own DMP that is reviewed by the UL information specialist of their faculty. The information specialist discusses the reviewed DMP with the PhD student and his/her supervisor, and raises awareness of their shared responsibility for RDM. The UL’s next step is developing discipline-specific RDM courses with faculties and research institutes.

**DATA-POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN A FACULTY**

The Faculty of Engineering Technology has a data policy that formulates the minimum requirements for proper RDM, both on the level of the faculty and of each research group. For the formulation and implementation of data policy on research-group level, a pilot project started with five groups (one per discipline). Two researchers per group wrote a DMP for their research project. These DMPs were reviewed by UL and IT, and discussed with the researcher and his/her supervisor. Based on the DMPs and the faculty’s data policy, one of the supervisors or the head of the research group formulated a research-group data policy. In their review and discussion of these policies, UL and IT specifically paid attention to responsibilities.

The research-group data policies were presented, compared, and discussed in a meeting with the five pilot groups, in presence of the dean of the Faculty of Engineering Technology. The dean has now urged the remaining (± 25) research groups of the faculty to follow in the footsteps of the five pilot groups and write their own research-group data policy within the next two months. Some of these groups work closely together and may develop a joint group policy. All the research-group policies will be reviewed by the University Library and discussed with the groups.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

To what extent can individual researchers be held responsible for RDM?

**TAKEAWAY MESSAGE**

Data policy is much about responsibilities. The creation of RDM awareness and knowledge needs to include these responsibilities. Implementing data policy on different levels within the university allows for the development of a discipline-specific RDM course, of which the content and structure are jointly organized by the University Library (UL), faculties and research institutes.

**UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE. HIGHTECH, HUMAN TOUCH**

FACULTIES
- Behavioural, Management & Social Sciences
- Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science
- Engineering Technology
- Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation
- Science and Technology

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT in 2014
- Total publications 3,098
- Refereed publications 2,703
- Spin-off companies since 1984 ± 1,000

PROGRAMMES in 2016 | Numbers in 2014
- 19 Bachelor of Science programmes: Students 5,627
- 37 Master of Science programmes: Students 3,659
- 20 Doctoral programmes: Degrees awarded ± 244

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