

Good, Better, Best? Examining the Range and Rationales of Institutional Data Curation Practices

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ABSTRACT

Many academic institutions are grappling with managing local research data assets. Resources and approaches vary. This panel will explore curation procedures at institutional data repositories.

General Terms

Institutional opportunities and challenges; Infrastructure opportunities and challenges; Preservation strategies and workflows.

Keywords

Data curation, Data management, Institutional repositories

1. THEME

Many academic institutions are grappling with managing local research data assets for the first time, due to recent demand from users and research funders; others have been providing forms of data access and support for years, allowing them to gradually build up knowledge and applied expertise. Similarly, the resources available for data archiving and support vary enormously between institutions, based on perceived importance of research data management (RDM) by senior managers, degree of commitment to long-term preservation and reuse of the data, the level of funding brought in by research activity, the extent of support provided in-house by libraries and IT centres, relative size of the institution, and number of disciplines in scope.

A wide range of technological solutions are available to data archivists, who come from diverse backgrounds, profess varied academic and professional values in relation to 'open knowledge' and data sharing, and may be located in various units within the university. Finally, knowledge of digital curation and preservation standards and techniques is not uniform amongst practitioners.

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This panel, like the IPRES 2015 delegation, reflects a portion of that range of variation in terms of approaches to data archiving, curation, digital preservation, and support for data re-use. The panel will offer an unabashed look at today's approaches to institutional data curation that weighs 'best' practice against real world concerns for conservation of resources and meeting expectations of local and other stake-holders.

2. PROGRAM

Time	Subject	Presenter
15 minutes	Introduction Good, better, best? Examining the range and rationales of institutional data curation practices	Robin Rice
45 minutes	Panel discussion Each panel member will describe their own data curation and archiving approaches based on comparative topics such as, types of data received and issued, repository governance, mission and policies, technological choices, levels of engagement with depositors and end-users, degree of elaboration for workflows for data management and preservation planning, quality assurance of content (from minimal to maximal), and appraisal protocols.	Panelists Robin Rice Limor Peer Wendy White Florio Arguillas
30 minutes	Audience Q&A with the panel	Moderated by Limor Peer

3. PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS

Robin Rice, Data Librarian, manages the Data Library services at the University of Edinburgh, including Edinburgh DataShare, an institutional data repository, and Research Data MANTRA, an open online training course in data management. She is active in the University's Research Data Management programme. She received a BA at Clark University and a Masters in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Limor Peer, PhD, is Associate Director for Research, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University. She oversees research infrastructure and process at ISPS and manages a specialized research data repository (the ISPS Data Archive) and is currently involved in campus-wide efforts relating to research data sharing and preservation. Limor received a Ph.D. and M.A. in Communication Studies from Northwestern University and a B.A. in Political Science from Tel-Aviv University.

Wendy White is Head of Scholarly Communication at the University of Southampton where her work includes leading the co-ordination of cross-service support for the curation and discovery of all types of research output. She has been involved with a range of projects relating to innovations supporting open access,

repositories and research data, including as Principle Investigator for the Jisc funded institutional DataPool project (2011-13) and Co-Investigator on IDMB (2009-11) which developed a 10 year strategic roadmap for research data management at Southampton.

Florio Arguillas, Jr. is Research Associate at the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research where his work involves, among others, managing the CISER Helpdesk, which provides a whole range of free statistical software consulting services to the Cornell community; managing CISER's Data Curation and Replication Service; and co-managing the data curation, management, and archiving training offered by CISER. Florio received an AB in Economics from Ateneo de Davao University, M.A. in Demography from the University in the Philippines, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Development Sociology from Cornell University.