Research Data Management: Unisa experience
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Introduction/Background

• Research Data Management (RDM) project commenced in 2010.
• Legal requirement by Government
• Research and Innovation portfolio
• Why the Library?
Library role

• Metadata integrity
• Data specialist support
  – Cataloguers
    • Metadata
    • Indexing
  – Research Information support – PL’s
  – Research ICT
  – Collection Development support
Benefits

• Access to data for more than one person
• Encourages collaborations
• Validation of research data
• Increase Unisa researchers’ visibility
• Supports creativity and innovation
• Citability of research data
Benefits continued

• High visibility of data
• Easy re-use and verification of data sets
• Scientific reputation for collection and documentation of data
• Encouraging the National Archives Act
SLC & SRC Support

• Support investigation to establish data management and preservation

• College Representatives - to identify researchers
Stakeholders

• Colleges
• Research Department
• Unisa ICT- to provide infrastructure
• Senate Research Committee
• Senate Library Committee
• Ethics Committee
Survey

- Conducted a survey March – July 2011
- Supported by the Library Senate Committee
- Ethics policy reviewed to incorporate RDM
Survey…

• Data Management survey at Unisa: March-July 2011

• https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BGX9L2N
Pain that comes with a package

- Lack of time and resources
- Lack of experience
- Legal and ethical constraints
- Lack of appropriate archive service
- Fear of exploitation on inappropriate use of data
RDM proposal

- Unisa departments involved
- National initiatives
- Short term management of data
- Description of data to be archived
- Acquiring of data
Proposal continued

• Processing of data and system description
• Metadata content and format
• Quality assurance and quality control
• Training and support
• Budget/Funding
Current status quo

- Business requirements submitted to ICT
- Project fully supported by ICT
- Invitations for participation sent to Heads of Departments to identify Researchers
- Raw data requested from Researchers
Data management process flow

- **Write project proposal**
- **Prepare data management plan**
- **Obtain ethics approval**
- **Draw up research contract**
- **Execute project**
- **Deposit data, documents, Data Deposit Form**
- **Support secondary use**
- **Promote use**
- **Preserve files**
- **Disseminate metadata & files**
- **Ingest**

- **Researchers**
  - Ingest
  - Preserves files
  - Describe data
  - Check & validate data
  - Create preservation & dissemination files

- **Curators**
  - Support secondary use
  - Promote use
Conclusion

The end, for now