

Building the UCT community of Data Stewards & Champions: A community of practice approach

UCT Open Data Day 2019

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1. Important definitions?
2. What we do as DLS
3. The challenges of Research Data Management (RDM) in a research intensive university
4. DLS approach to solving the challenges of RDM

What is stewardship?

- To hold something **in trust for another**.
- The **willingness** to be accountable for the well being of the larger organisation by operating in **service** rather than in **control** of those around us (Block, 1993).
- **Choosing** service over self interest (Block, 1993).



- “**Steward**”: a person who is responsible for managing something on behalf of someone else.

Who are the data stewards?

- Individuals assigned with **group level curation roles** on ZivaHub

ZivaHub | *Open Data UCT*

UCT's Institutional Data Repository for publishing data, powered by Figshare for Institutions.



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FILESET

Co-disposal Packing Protocols
Thanos Kotsiopoulos yesterday

CODE

ggboot
Miguel Rodo 24/02/2019

CODE

VaccCompData
Miguel Rodo 24/02/2019

CODE

VaccComp
Miguel Rodo 24/02/2019

Who are Data Champions?

-Data Champions are **researchers, PhD students, support staff and volunteers** who have agreed to advocate for good data management and sharing practice within their department by:

1. providing local training,
2. briefing staff members at departmental meetings, and
3. raising awareness of the need for data sharing and management

(Higman, Teperek & Kingsley, 2017).



DLS support for the data stewards & champions community

- **Identify** *subject-expert* Data Stewards, and **assign them** an appropriate, group-level curation role on ZivaHub.
- **Participate in** and **coordinate** relevant data training activities
- **Provide information** on current trends in data handling via the *One Pager* bi-monthly newsletter to our mailing list.
- **Organise monthly forums** / get together to share experiences and discuss achievements, problems and any other issues.

The Challenges of Research Data Management





Challenges of RDM in a research intensive University

- RDM is a **researcher** owned endeavour.
- It is a labour intensive and lengthy process (Higman, Teperek and Kingsley, 2017).
- Managing research data in some cases requires both data management skills & **subject specific knowledge**.
- However a lot of work remains to engage all researchers at UCT.

Approach to solving the challenges of RDM

- DLS has adopted a **community of practice model** to solve the challenges of RDM by engaging with data stewards & champions.
- Data stewards & champions bring **subject specific knowledge** to support and offer training to researchers and advocate for good RDM practice (Higman, Teperek and Kingsley, 2017).
- More discipline-specific training is given - e.g. CeBER **data sprints** by Lesley Mostert.
- The Data Stewards and Champions Community is our response to the RDM policy.



How do Communities of practice work?

1. Problem solving	I'm stuck. How do I do ABC?
2. Requests for information	Guys where can I find...?
3. Seeking experience	Hey! Anyone ever served a patron registered in Statistics not Pathology but wanting to deposit in SATVI?
4. Reusing assets	I have a presentation I used at...maybe you can tweak it for...
5. Coordination and synergy	Can we combine...?
6. Discussing developments	What do you think of the new data repository at ...?
7. Documenting experiences	We have so many patrons complaining about this incident, maybe we need to take note...
8. Visits	can we meet in your lab and discuss?

(Wenger, 2011)

Community of practice(Cop)

- The term provides an important perspective of **knowing and learning**.
- Organisations use Cop to **improve performance**
- Not all communities are Cop

3 Requisites for a Cop

1. Shared **domain** of interest.
2. A sense of **community**.
3. A shared **practice** (Wenger, 2011)



Plans for growing the community

Good News-Membership is free for all **who have shown an interest**



SLACK

RDM at UCT



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CeBER: Environmental Bioprocess Engineering



Faculty of Health Sciences

Faculty of Science



Centre for Higher Education Development

Faculty of Commerce

Faculty of Humanities



University Libraries

CeBER: Acid Rock Drainage

Chemical Engineering

Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE)

Faculty of Law



Surgery



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Thank You