Data Management Survey

The results available in this package of files derive from a survey conducted by three Australian universities in late 2007.

The total number of responses received from the three surveys was 879.

The surveys were conducted separately within the three universities with a view to collecting information that would assist in the formation of services to support the improvement of data management and the provision of infrastructure within each university. The results shown here are an aggregation, and text comments have been amended where necessary to ensure anonymity for both respondent and their institution.

The questionnaire used for each of the surveys was substantially the same. There were small variations and the list of questions below identifies those with an asterisk. Where results are available for one university only, this is noted in the tables and documents available here.

In each university, the survey was conducted under the auspices of a senior university administrator with responsibility for research or information (eg Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research or equivalent).

The survey forms were made available via Apollo, a software package developed and maintained at the Australian National University.

For further information

For further information about the survey, or if you would like to replicate it for your own institution, contact Margaret Henty (margaret.henty@anu.edu.au) or phone 61 2 6125 7685.

Using these results

Questions

The questions included in the survey are listed below. They are not numbered for two reasons. Firstly, the order in which they were listed varied from university to university and secondly, because some questions were asked by only one university (these questions are marked with an asterisk). A list of tables with both statistical and text responses is provided in "Data Management Practice Survey - Data tables & responses" which is included with as a separate document.

- Please identify your school, centre or research institute
  - [text response only]

- Academic status
  - Member of the academic staff
  - Postgraduate student
  - Emeritus/Adjunct appointment
  - Other (please specify)

- Has your research generated digital data?
  - Yes (go to question on types of data)
  - No

- If no, do you maintain research-related data in non-digital forms such as paper, photographs, video or audio tapes, slides, etc?
  - Yes

- No

- If your research generates digital data, please check all the following types that apply:
  - Data automatically generated from or by computer programs
  - Data collected from sensors or instruments
  - Experimental data
  - Fieldwork data
  - Laboratory notes
  - Images, scans or x-rays
  - Web sites
  - Blogs or discussion threads
  - Email
  - Digital audio or video files
  - Documents and reports
  - Other (please specify)

- How large (in total) is your digital research data?
  - Less than 100MB
  - 100MB - 1GB
  - 1GB – 1TB
  - More than 1 TB
  - Don't know

- Please list any software used for analysis or manipulation of your data, e.g. SPSS, TecPlot

  - [text response only]

- * Do you use Grid/high performance computing?
  - Yes (go to question on types of data)
  - No

- * If applicable, how do you store and retain any software used to generate your research data?
  - [text response only]

- Do you currently have a formal Research Data Management Plan in place?
  - Yes
  - No

- What data storage and backup system do you currently have in place? Please check all that apply:
  - DVDs
  - CDs
  - USB/Flash drives
  - Tape storage
  - Storage area network
  - Offsite storage
  - Third party (including commercial data storage)
  - None
  - Don't know
  - Other (please specify)

- Who is currently responsible for managing the data?
  - Research project manager
  - Designated person on project
  - External project partners
  - ITS
  - IT staff within your school, centre or research institute

- Research assistant
- Yourself
- Nobody
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

- Do you allow researchers outside your team to access your research data? Please check all that apply:
  - Openly
  - Via negotiated access
  - Only after the formal end of a project
  - Only some years after the end of a project
  - Not at all
  - Never, because of privacy and confidentiality issues
  - Not at present, but I would be willing to make some or all of it available if an easy mechanism to do so were offered at [this university]
  - Access is provided through the Australian Social Science Data Archive (or similar) after data is deposited there

- * Who will be responsible for looking after the research data after the research project has concluded?
  - [text response only]

- How is your data accessed or used? Please check all that apply
  - In original print form
  - In small chunks
  - Dataset as a whole
  - As raw data
  - Only after filtering, manipulation and access
  - Locally
  - Online via Grid, Storage Resource Broker, etc
  - Online via a website or service
  - Other (please specify)

- How long do you think your research data will have value?
  - Up to 5 years
  - Up to 10 years
  - More than 10 years
  - Don't know

- * Who owns the data generated in your research?
  - [text response only]

- * How do you know who owns the data?
  - [text response only]

- Would you be interested in training or advice on any of the following? Please check all that apply.
  - Digitisation advice, tools and services
  - Creating a research data management plan at the beginning of a project
  - Creating a research data management plan after a project has finished
  - A data "exit" plan (for retiring academics or departing academics and postgraduate students)
  - Data "rescue" for older digital materials, such as data on older media or migration of data from legacy systems
  - Other (please specify)

- Would you be willing to participate in, or provide information to, an eResearch reference

group aimed at developing support for researchers at [this university]?
- Yes
- No

- Please feel free to add any other comments regarding data management, long term data storage and access, digitisation, training, etc.
  - [text response only]

- * Do you regard yourself as practising eResearch?
  - Yes
  - No

- Your name?

- Your email address?

- Please tick here if you would like to discuss your data management and storage or training needs with staff from [this university's relevant area]

* Asked by one university only. Otherwise by all three universities taking part.

Margaret Henty
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