



COAR Survey of Research Data Management: Results

Kathleen Shearer and Filipe Furtado

Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR)

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Introduction

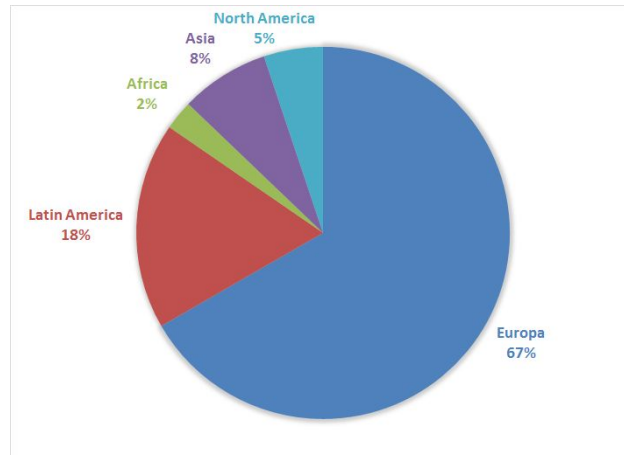
Researchers produce huge volumes of research data, much of which remains on the hard drives and is unavailable for validation or re-use. In a system where openness is becoming the default, it is imperative that institutions take on greater responsibility for the collection, management and sharing of this valuable content.

In September 2016, COAR launched a Research Data Management (RDM) Interest Group to help the repository community expand their operations to better support RDM. This group will provide a forum for discussion about managing research data, identify best practices and strategies, and support capacity building for RDM in the repository community.

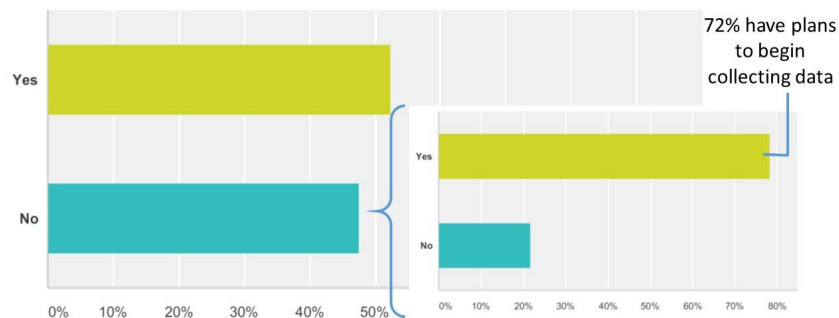
Research data management is wide ranging and there are already many organizations active in this area. The purpose of this survey was for COAR to get a better understanding of the needs of our members in the area of research data management. The survey was conducted from December 1 - December 16, 2016.

Results

There were 43 responses to the survey from all continents, with the majority of responses (25) from European institutions.

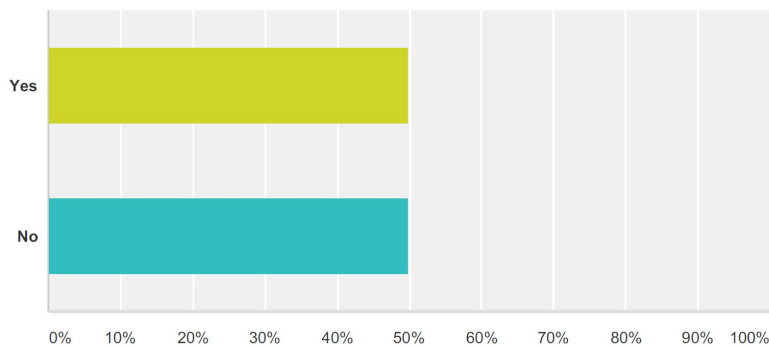


23 of the 43 respondents indicated that are already collecting data. For the respondents that are not collecting research data, close to 80% indicated that they have plans to do so in the near future.

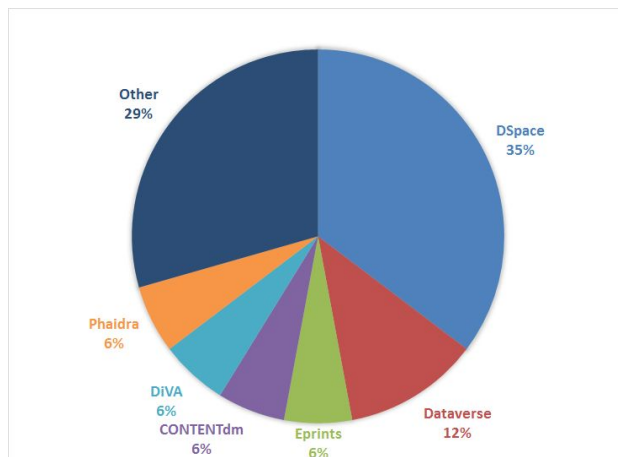


Repository Platforms

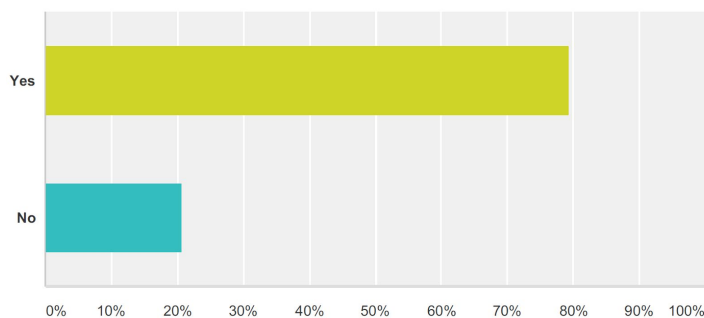
One half of the respondents indicated that they use the same platform to manage publications and research data (Answered: 40, Skipped: 3)



There was a lot of diversity in the types of software systems of platforms used. DSpace was the most common with 35% of respondents indicating they use DSpace followed by 12% who are using Dataverse. Obviously, not all respondents to this question are collecting research data at this time (Answered: 36, Skipped: 7)



When asked if the system they currently use fulfills the RDM requirements at their institution, the majority said yes.



For those who felt the system did not fulfill requirements, explanations were related to metadata requirements and the current functionality of the repository.

Metadata

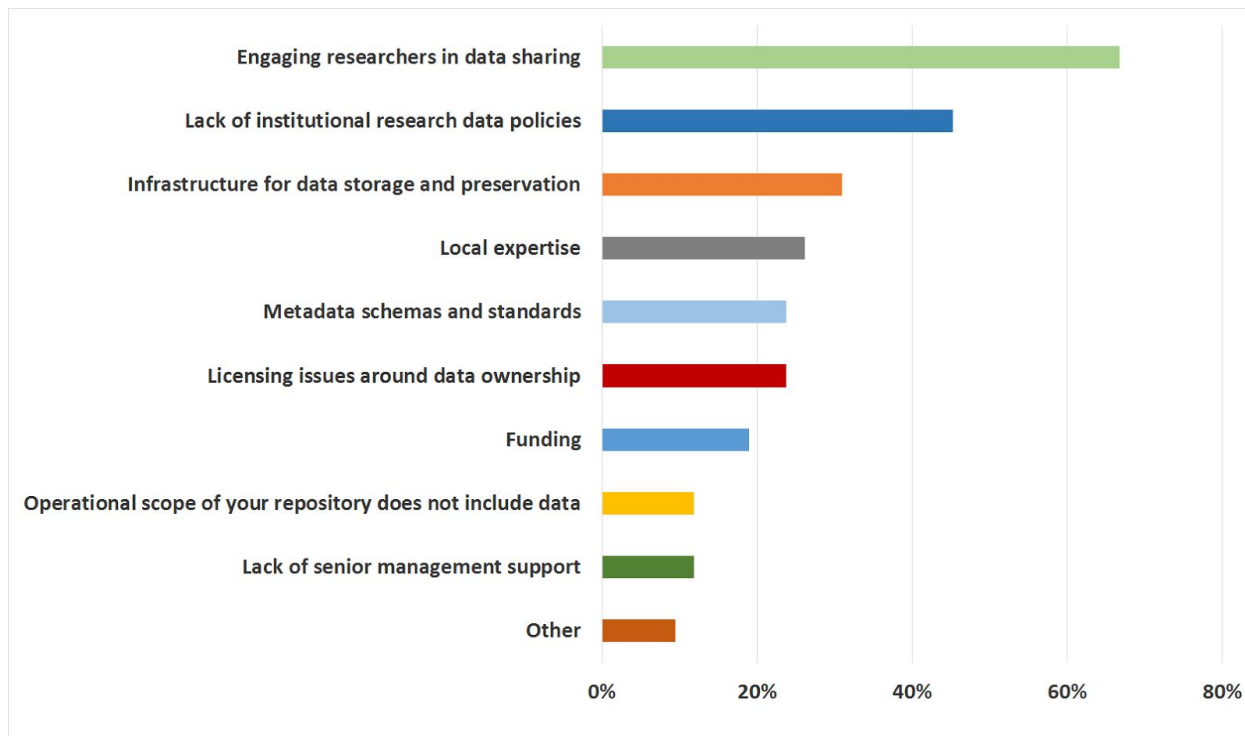
- Social science research datasets would require additional metadata
- Inadequate metadata and no linkage to related documents

Repository functionality

- The research data repository is under further development
- It's a very old system and not supported at all. We're planning to use dSPACE
- Rosetta does not fulfill all our RDM requirement since it is a preservation system and lacks important feature to be used as a publication platform (e.g. flexibility in the submission process, no end user frontend,... we are currently customizing and implementing additional features in DSpace so it can fulfill our RDM requirements.
- Not the long-term archive demands according to our national law.

Challenges

According to respondents, the major challenges for collecting research data in their institution are engaging researchers, a lack of institutional policies for RDM, and infrastructure for storage and preservation.

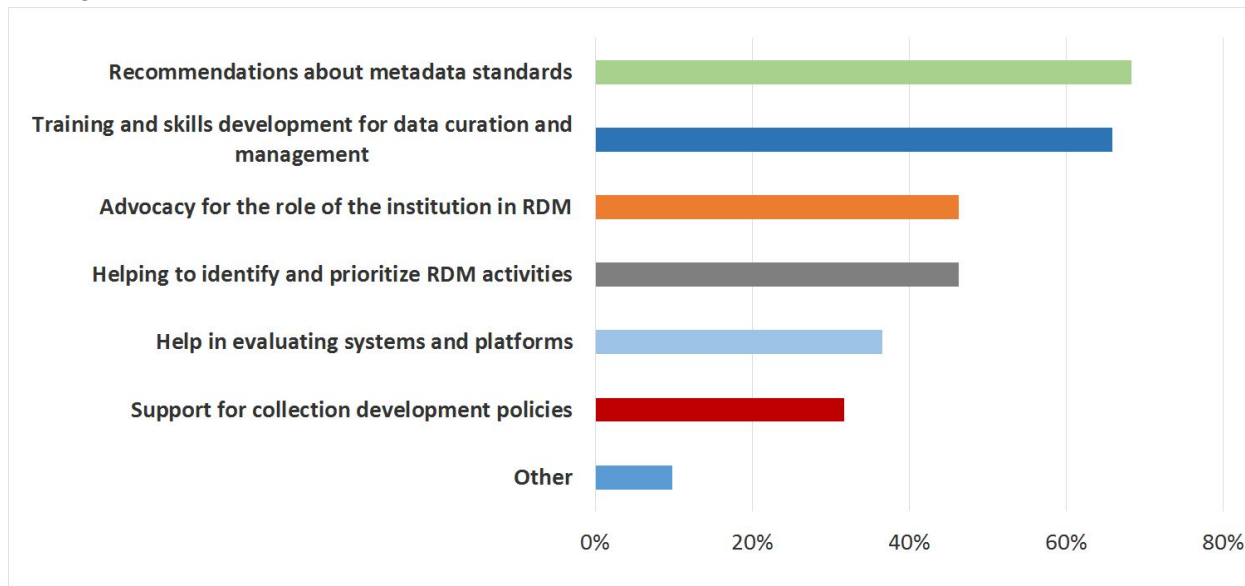


Other responses:

- Change management
- Researchers' motivation
- Handling of large datasets and large databases of data, as well as the diversity of data, within a single operational structure
- We have a quite advanced RDM policy and practice, so all these aspects are quite satisfactory taking care of in our institution, so no specific issues here

A role for COAR

In what areas can COAR be of help to you and your institution in terms of research data management?



Other responses:

- National Systems of Digital Repositories could receive from COAR advocacy, good practices and training materials for traditional institutional repositories to better understand how to manage research data in platforms and metadata standards developed for processing texts
- Open data policies and mandates by funders, data long term preservation
- development of institutional universal repository
- Not sure. There are many networks and organizations already doing this, so we need to wary of too many chefs in this area.

Other comments from the survey

- We are working on the design of a data management plan and on the awareness of researchers who are reluctant to deliver their data but there is a national law that obliges them if they want to continue receiving subsidy
- We are aligning the DMPTool with UK DCC
- We just operate at the moment a disciplinary repository for animal tracking data, not an institutional repository



Next steps

Based on the results of this survey, COAR will organize a series of webinars on research data management, initially focussing on the topics of engaging researchers, repository case studies, and metadata schemas for research data management in repositories. These webinars will take place in the first six months of 2017

In addition to the information above, survey respondents provided links to their favourite research data management resources. COAR will post these links on the research data management [webpage](#) to support capacity building in the area of research data management.