

Tutorial: Addressing Institutional Research Data Management

Istanbul, 7-8 May, 2013

Robin Rice

Data Librarian

University of Edinburgh



# RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT: POLICY DEVELOPMENT



# University Research Data Management Policy

The policy for management of research data was approved by the University Court on 16 May, 2011.

Vice-Principal Jeff Haywood was a champion for the University of Edinburgh to develop the first (?) RDM policy in the UK



# Pressure for change

(slide from IDCC 2010 – out of date now!)



Wwarby on flickr

- **Research funders** seeking to add value
- **Publishers** responding to demand
- **Public** wanting access to publicly funded data
- *Universities* reluctant to step up to challenge?

# Seeking win + win + win + win + win.....

Where do I safely keep my data from my fieldwork, as I travel home?

How do we ensure we have access to our research data after some of the team have left?

How can our research collaborations share data, and make them available once complete?

How can I best keep years worth of research data secure and accessible for when I and others need to re-use it?

How do we ensure compliance to funders' requirement for several years of open access to data?

PhD student

individual researcher

research team

university

supra-university

LEVEL

# Drivers influencing the policy

- Recent adoption of the Code of Practice for Research (UK Research Integrity Office, 2009) by the university's research office, obligating the institution to provide support for retention and access to data underlying published research.
- 'Climategate' email review at East Anglia University highlighting the reputational risk and legal accountability associated with staff not being forthcoming in response to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests for data from the public.

# Developing an RDM policy

- Know the drivers for your own institution and practice the art of persuasion. Convince yourself.
- Generate broad, inclusive discussion about roles and responsibilities. Don't rush it.
- How big is your kirk? Seek alliances actively.
- Who is your high-level champion? Who are your academic champions? Who will draft the words?
- Agree a style – aspirational? mandate? legal?
- Undertake a service gap analysis; plan to address.
- Take advantage of side benefits, even if not ultimately successful. (Means > end?)
- Postcard from the future: what will it achieve?









# Links

- University data policy

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/research-data-policy>

- Research data support pages

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/data-library>

□ *R.Rice at ed.ac.uk*