«We can work it out!»
Collaborating on Research Data Management Services at UiT The Arctic University of Norway

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Ebola outbreak 2013-2016 in Guinea, spreading to Liberia and Sierra Leone.
Declared an international crisis by WHO.
Over 28 000 reported cases, more than 11 000 deaths.
No established treatment, no vaccine.
(Tønjum & Olsen, 2018)
“We urge researchers working on outbreaks to embrace a culture of openness.”

“In an increasingly connected world [...] with new ways to collect clinical and epidemiological data, could transform our response to outbreaks.”

“[T]he power of these potentially massive data sets to combat epidemics will be realized only if the data are shared as widely and as quickly as possible.”

(Yozwiak et al., 2015, bolding ours)
The UiT strategy

• UiT will be in the **national forefront in Open Science** and our research data and publications will be openly available when possible.

• UiT will be recognized by a culture for **active dissemination through open channels for publishing**, as well as through exhibitions, journals and the media.

• UiT will ensure the **efficiency and quality of its support services** through continuous improvement processes with a broad level of involvement.

(bolding ours)
Outline

Research Data Management (RDM) services at UiT
• Development and scaling
• Organization and collaboration
• Example: RDM training
• The road ahead
Development and scaling of RDM services

2014:
- TROLLing (archive linguistic data)
- Curation services
- Working group RDM UiT

2015:
- Survey, report and recommendations for RDM at UiT

2016:
- UiT Open Research Data
- Training RDM
- UiT Board: Commission for policy and infrastructure

2018:
- DMP mandatory in PhD projects
- Guidance and templates DMP
- Expanded training services

2019:
- Guidelines for handling DMP
- New solutions for working with sensitive data
- Roadmap for RDM

2020 Milestone:
- Complete active data infrastructure

2017:
- Policy for RDM adopted
- UiT Research Data Portal
- Request tracker
- New local infrastructure for active data
- DataverseNO (multi-inst. archive)
Organizing the RDM services

- IT dep
- Coordinating group
- University Library
- Research Admin
- Courses and curation
- The Faculties
- Dataverse NO
- Library RDM group
- Senior researchers project

- Technical infrastructure
- UIT Management
- Policy making
- Alignment/commitment
- Support external funding
- Implement goals and regulations
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Collaboration - basic principles and activities

**Principles**
- Workflow based on existing organization
- Defined responsibilities
- Develop and incorporate new competences and services in dialogue and process
- Coordinated as one coherent DMP service
- No new organizational units/departments (so far)
- Management commitment
- From pilot and project to integrated services

**Activities**
- Coordinating group (biweekly)
- Working groups (project periods)
- Workshop with leaders present (yearly)
- RDM-lunch (monthly)
- Shared digital room (Teams)
- Reporting (yearly)
- Managers agenda
Collaboration – strengths and challenges

✓ Goals and direction – shared and mutual
✓ Responsibilities well defined
✓ Complementary competence
✓ Flexibility and tolerance
✓ Sufficient resources and capacity
✓ Culture and personal traits – trust, loyalty and shared identity
✓ Efficient organizational complexity and size
✓ Environment – shared understanding
✓ Handling diversity and disagreements
Dialogue & spreading the word

Continuous outreach to research communities, including leaders and supervisors, to raise awareness of their role and responsibilities.

Meetings with different stakeholders at appropriate moments (e.g. policies, funding application deadlines).

- Councils with decision-makers
- IT events & administrative fora
- ToDoS (Tromsø Doctoral Students)

Get invitations and tailor-make sessions for various user groups (e.g. departments, research groups, student networks)
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Community-based initiatives & learning by doing

- Developing different types of archival solutions in collaboration with the research communities.

- Learning about new types of data in in-depth collaboration with the project research group.

**TROLLing**
The Tromsø Repository of Language and Linguistics

Archive for the international community, individual datasets.

**NMDC**
Norwegian Marine Data Centre

Archive for the UiT node of a national infrastructure, data series.

**Prestige - Gender Balance in Research Leadership at UiT The Arctic University of Norway**

Centre for Women’s and Gender Research, UiT
RDM training @ UiT

Acquisition of competence and skills in safe, competent and collaborative conditions, fuelled by engagement and interaction horizontally and vertically.

All training framed in a learning perspective

• motivation
• activity
• support
Developing the training program

- Starting point: the RDM lifecycle.
- Gradually filling gaps, with responsibility assigned to the relevant unit.
- Teaching group: 8 people and growing.
- Capacity building through experience, feedback and peer evaluation.
The training program

- Guidance
  - Dataset curation
  - Data Management Plans
  - Application writing

- Open courses
  - Introduction to the whys of RDM
  - Thematic courses (searching, structuring, storing, sharing, citing, licencing, agreements, DMP)

- Handling data with sensitive information (under development)
  - Working group in place
  - IT, legal advisors, data curators, researchers
RDM integrated in regular teaching

Supervisor seminars, PhD courses with ECTS credits, MA programs
The road ahead

- Implement research data management as part of regular operations at the institution.
- Respond to national guidelines.
- Collaborate nationally in an international context: RDA Norway.
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References


Abstract

Since long, UiT The Arctic University of Norway devotes much focus and resources on Open Science, in particular open access to publications and open research data. Navigating in a landscape of rapid change, collaboration is key to raise awareness, create engagement, enhance competence, and make things move forward. In this talk, we focus on the development of support services for research data management within the frame of an institutional policy adopted in 2017. We pay particular attention to the collaboration between the research administration, the IT department and the University Library, which has proven successful for UiT at the institutional, national, and international level.