Research Data Management:
Finding our role at Brunel

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RDM: where do we start?

- Fact finding survey to investigate existing RDM policy and practice, identify researcher needs and assess our ability to comply with RCUK research data requirements, FOI.

Areas we covered

- Research data types and software

- Data storage

- Data rights, access and security

- Data management practice and needs

How did we do it?

- All RCUK funded researchers were invited to participate
- Small project team administered via interviews (30-60 mins)
- Project took 6 months to complete – detailed data analysis still in progress

Some of the issues

- Knowing what data is – and what to keep
- Big data – where and how to store it
- Robust data backup
- Cataloguing all data locations
- Staying up-to-date with relevant policy and related issues
- Knowing what is required in data management plans
- Having research-specific technical support
- Managing student research data and IP

Our role

- Researchers have a lot to deal with (teaching, research, administrative workloads)

- Librarians must be prepared to support researchers' changing needs

- Librarians are exceptionally well placed to offer, deliver and coordinate the right support

- We can acquire / adapt the skills needed relatively easily.

Where we can help

- Data (and metadata) cataloguing
- Access to data: archiving and publishing
- Open access, RCUK / funder / sponsor policy

Discussion

Thank you

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