



Monash Information Management Strategy

Data Management Plan Testing

Nicholas McPhee

Objectives

- **The main objectives of testing the Data Management Plan (DMP) are:**
 - To determine its suitability.
 - To determine its accuracy.
 - To determine its usefulness.
 - To streamline the DMP.
 - To trial the plan in real-world conditions.

Plan

- **Three phases:**
 - Phase One (Completed)
 - > Determine objectives.
 - > Identify academics.
 - Phase Two (Nearing completion)
 - > Contact academics.
 - > Speak to/interview researchers identified in Phase One.
 - > Analyse feedback.
 - > Present findings to the Subcommittee.
 - > Revise DMP as appropriate.
 - Phase Three (2008)
 - > Identify a suitable pilot project for implementation.
 - > Acquire an agreement to implement the DMP.
 - > Plan implementation with researchers and approve.
 - > Implement DMP and plan.
 - > Assess and modify as necessary.
 - > Finalise DMP present findings to the Subcommittee.

Methodology (1)

- **Meet academics in person in order to:**
 - Discuss the objectives of the DMP.
 - Discuss why the DMP is relevant.
 - Request that they complete the Plan.
 - Request subjective feedback on the DMP.

Methodology (2)

- **In addition, it was important to:**
 - Document initial opinions.
 - Identify the amount of time taken to complete the DMP.
 - Identify superfluous questions.
 - Identify gaps.
 - Identify errors.

Methodology (3)

- **After acquiring feedback:**
 - The data was analysed.
 - A preliminary report was compiled.
 - Conclusions and recommendations were outlined.

Interviews

- **Interviews ran for approximately 30 minutes, and the DMP and its objectives and potential benefits were introduced.**
- **The six academics contacted were in the following areas:**
 - School of Geography and Environmental Science,
 - School of Historical Studies,
 - Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Labs (MISCL),
 - Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
 - Clayton School of Information Technology, and
 - School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics.
- **All interviews were completed by the end of October, and we have received four responses, with the other two due in the near future.**

Preliminary Feedback

- **The preliminary feedback indicated that:**
 - The average time taken to complete the DMP was just over one hour.
 - The DMP seems to cater more toward digital data.
 - The DMP is currently paper-based, and an online form would be more efficient.

Preliminary Conclusions

- **The preliminary conclusions are:**
 - More education required for researchers on statutory requirements for data,
 - More education required for researchers on IP and the ownership of research data,
 - Semantics need to be investigated, in order to reduce potential question ambiguity,
 - The DMP covers data created by researchers effectively, but may not cover other forms of primary data.
 - The issue of widespread access to research data by Monash researchers needs to be addressed.

Preliminary Recommendations

- **The preliminary recommendations include the following:**
 - Increase the number of academics interviewed.
 - The Subcommittee should examine the DMP in order to determine whether or not it is feasible to split the form into two.
 - The Subcommittee should examine the questions in the DMP in order to ensure that they can be completed at the commencement of a project.
 - The Subcommittee should assess the DMP in order ensure that it can effectively support paper-based data sources and records.
 - The form should be made available online.
 - The Library's exact role should be determined.

Why is the DMP important?

- **Research data is becoming increasingly important.**
- **Provides avenues for closer collaboration between researchers.**
- **Efficient and beneficial re-use of research data.**
- **Importance of data management across the collaborative space.**
- **Reducing the possibility of data loss.**
- **Identifying new strategies for data retention and disposal.**

The Future

- **Working with the Monash e-Research Centre (MeRC).**
- **Looking at commencing Phase Three in 2008.**

Questions?