



# Researcher requirements and training

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# Requirements gathering

- Substantial body of information about researcher requirements gathered by previous Oxford RDM projects
  - Focused mostly on humanities and social sciences
- Three DaMaRO Project surveys
  - RDM training requirements for science researchers
  - University of Oxford Research Data Management survey
  - RDM training requirements for research support staff
- Existing training material surveyed to assess suitability for re-use

# Science researcher survey

- Asked about eleven key data management tasks
- Most respondents had received little or no formal training in most of these
  - Slightly more informal training – but levels were still fairly low
- Levels of confidence were lowest for tasks relating to what happens to data after the end of a project
- Key training priorities identified were:
  - Dealing with copyright, licensing, and IP
  - Preparing datasets for long-term preservation
  - Preparing datasets for sharing

# Oxford Research Data Management survey

- Included questions on attitudes to data sharing
- Revealed some barriers that could be removed by better information...
  - Half the respondents who had not deposited data hadn't done so because they didn't know of an appropriate place to put it
  - 44% did not know whether their funder had RDM requirements for funding proposals
- ... And some that are more complex
  - Worries about being scooped
  - Time taken to prepare data for sharing

Part of my reluctance to share data is that my data is fairly roughly organised, and in various stages of polishedness... so it would be quite a big project to get it all presentable, and I'm not sure in what format I would do it.

– Oxford RDM survey respondent

# Support staff survey

- Run in collaboration with the Southampton DataPool Project
- Mean levels of confidence about giving RDM advice are low to moderate at best
  - Slightly better for knowing where to refer researchers
- For most tasks, only a small proportion regard giving advice as part of their role
- But a majority think they ought to know where to refer researchers for advice
  - ... Except for tasks concerned with day-to-day data management during the project

# Distribution of requests for RDM help

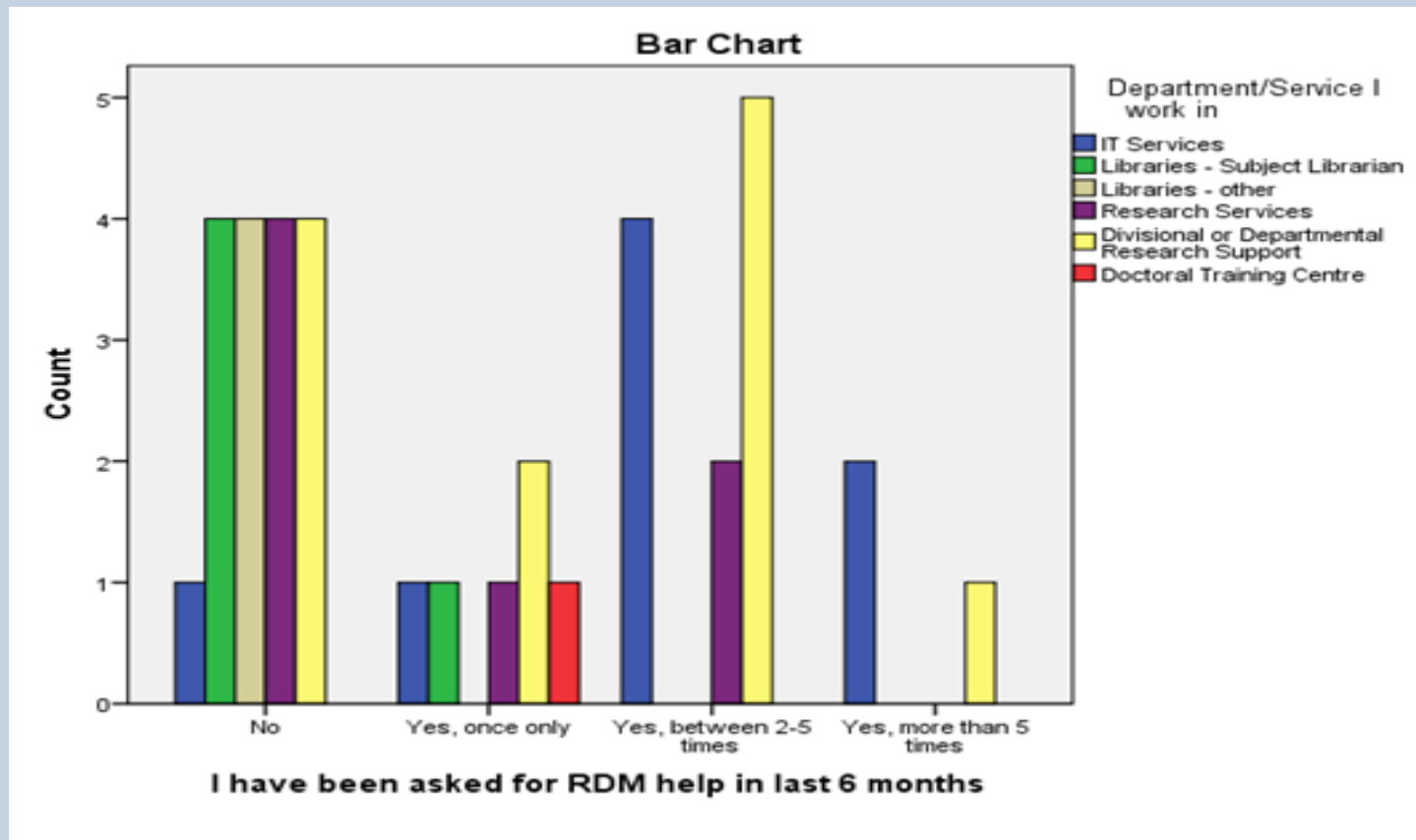


Chart produced as part of analysis by DataPool staff

# Training activity

- Revised slideshows and fact-sheet for use in induction sessions
- Detailed links to training and guidance material compiled for Oxford's RDM website
  - MANTRA course also promoted via other websites
- A half-day Introduction to Data Management course
- Other shorter presentations in response to invitations
- Case study slideshows to provide examples from different disciplines



# Introduction to Research Data Management – a half-day course

- Offered five times in spring/summer 2013 through Oxford's academic divisions
  - Between 9 and 17 participants per course
  - Mostly graduate students, postdocs, and a few support staff
- Drew on materials previously produced by DataTrain, DATUM, and the PrePARE Project
- Course revised in response to participant feedback
- Feedback also led to development of case studies
- Materials made available online – including delocalized version



# Form and content of training – what researchers want

- Researchers are busy people – they want training that's flexible, concise, and to the point
  - Ideally multiple formats (e.g. face-to-face and online)
  - Advice needs to be available throughout the research process
  - Informal training (e.g. via supervisors) may have benefits
- Language needs to be familiar to researchers
  - Even terms like 'data' or 'repository' may be problematic

# Tone of training

- Essential that training covers not just the *how* of data management, but also the *why*
  - What makes it worth spending time on this?
- Funders' and institutional requirements can be effective as a means of compelling compliance
  - But they can also lead to weary resentment
- Training needs to stress the benefits of preservation and sharing, not just the penalties for failing to do it
  - A major cultural shift is needed – to precipitate a virtuous circle of sharing

# Hopes for the future

- Continue building links with academic divisions
- Establish a network of data management champions in departments
  - To promote good data management practice
  - To provide disciplinary expertise
- Keep materials updated – and expand if possible
- Further work on case studies to provide examples
- Training for research support staff?

# Any questions?

Ask now, or email [meriel.patrick@it.ox.ac.uk](mailto:meriel.patrick@it.ox.ac.uk)

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