Data management @EUR

Fostering professionalism and integrity in research

Paul Plaatsman, 10 September 2014
Assignment and Mandate

The Taskforce Scientific Integrity has been established with the objective to raise awareness for and to develop proposals to help maintain scientific professionalism and integrity.

The Taskforce formulated many recommendations, some addressing the topic of research data management.
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<td>- inventory of user requirements for storing and archiving research data</td>
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<td>- Research ethics course templates</td>
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<td>Bauke Visser (ESE/Tinbergen), Irene van Staveren (ISS), Annet van der Veen (ESL)</td>
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<td>Dilemma game</td>
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Research data management: Governance

• The Rector Magnificus and the Executive Board
• The deans and directors of research
• University Library and ICT
Executive Board

- Appoint a central research support data officer

- Draft a covenant to the extent that the deans of research or research directors and – at Erasmus Medical Centre – the heads of department embed and evaluate research data management in their institute. They should have room to describe how they will fulfil the data management minimum.
The Faculties

- Socialise young researchers into responsible ways of working. Research data management is not something extra; the attitude should be that responsible data management is integral to professional research.
- A discussion is facilitated on guidelines for data collection, and that these address the following integrity risks: replicability, verifiability, independence of data, fairness to subjects, professionalism in the use of data collection methods, fairness to researchers.
The Library and ICT

- Provide **training and advice on research data management**
- Develop the library’s virtual desk into a **front office** for researchers, as a central point of expertise in research data management. This includes training and collaboration with long-term archives (the back office). Close collaboration with the Research Support Office (currently under development) is foreseen.
- Develop and maintain an **activating data support website** and select/develop relevant courses/workshops.
- Create **safe storage and backup facilities** for individual researchers, as well as safe ways to share and collaborate on research data.
- Maintain and **offer expertise** to make research staff aware of advantages and risks of particular storage platforms and media, in collaboration with the front office.
Lessons learned

- The proces: *from mere awareness to an actual RDM praxis* is complex

- The basics (standard back up and storage of research data) are not in place yet for researchers

- Appoint a single *central coordinator* and a *clear governance*
Lessons learned, continued

In general:

Wrap up

• To prevent the frustration, given the limited resources, more collaboration between universities is required.

• NWO is in the unique position to facilitate the implementation of proper research data management in the Netherlands, in co-operation with the universities, SURF, DANS and 3TU.
Further reading
