

Towards a community of Open Research Champions: insight from the Cambridge Data Champion Programme

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Data Champion Programme | Data Champions | Challenges | Future

in brief

Who are the Data Champions ?

Cambridge's Data Champions (DCs) are a community of volunteers from varied roles and from across the University

What do the DCs do?

Advise other researchers on good RDM and promote the FAIR principles

Who runs the DC Programme?

The Research Data Management Facility (RDMF) team at the Office of Scholarly Communication (OSC)

Why was it created?

To help support the University's community of c.10,000 researchers

What are the major goals?

Improve RDM across the University

Increase open research practices

Contribute to changing research culture

Reward DCs for their efforts

<https://www.data.cam.ac.uk/intro-data-champions>

Data Champion Programme | Data Champions | Challenges | Future timeline

Programme
launched with
1st call
(September)

2nd call
(February)

3rd call
(January)

2016

2017

2018

2019

For more information, see:

Higman, R., Teperek, M. & Kingsley, D. (2017). 'Creating a Community of Data Champions'. *International Journal of Digital Curation*, 12(2), 96–106. doi: 10.2218/ijdc.v12i2.562.

Savage, J. & Cadwallader, L. (in press, 2019). 'Establishing, Developing, and Sustaining a Community of Data Champions', *Data Science Journal*.

Cadwallader, L. (2019). Research data supporting "Establishing, Developing, and Sustaining a Community of Data Champions". doi: 10.17863/CAM.35725

OSC's *Unlocking Research* blogs, for example:

'Creating a research data community' <https://unlockingresearch-blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?p=1213>

Role of RDMF team at OSC

- Maintaining community
- Organisational support
- Flexibility with how DCs want to engage
- Training opportunities
- Facilitate networking
- Develop alumni community



Annual cycle

- Call for new Data Champions
- Inductions
- Six bi-monthly forums
- Needs-derived DC projects involving subsets of DCs

Data Champion Programme | Data Champions | Challenges | Future benefits

How to sell the benefits of getting involved?

Benefits we highlight

- Enhancing networks within own communities
- Expanding networks beyond own field
- Learning new skills
- Boost CV with transferable skills
- Increase impact

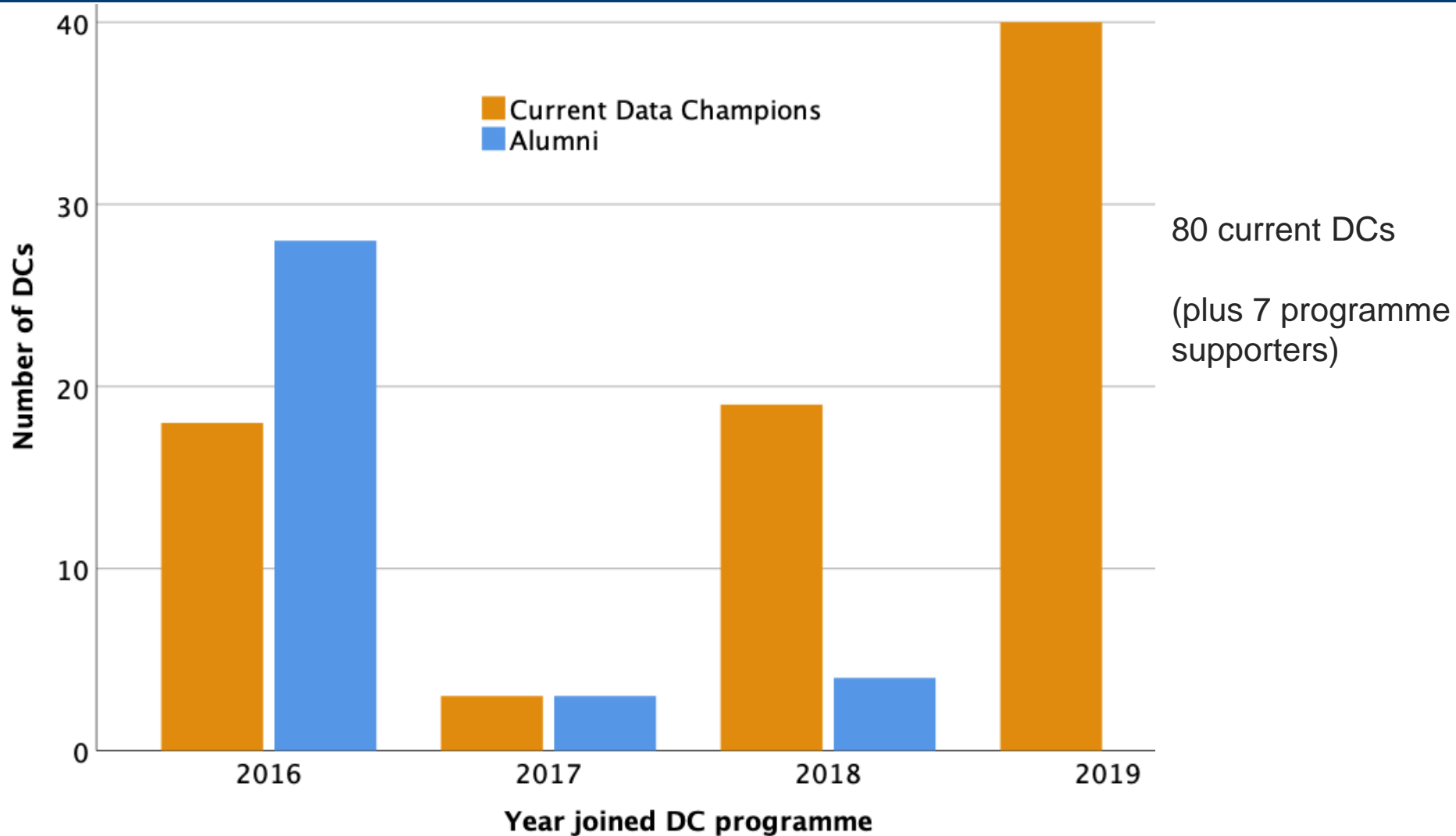


July 2018 forum

<https://www.data.cam.ac.uk/intro-data-champions/2019-call-data-champions>

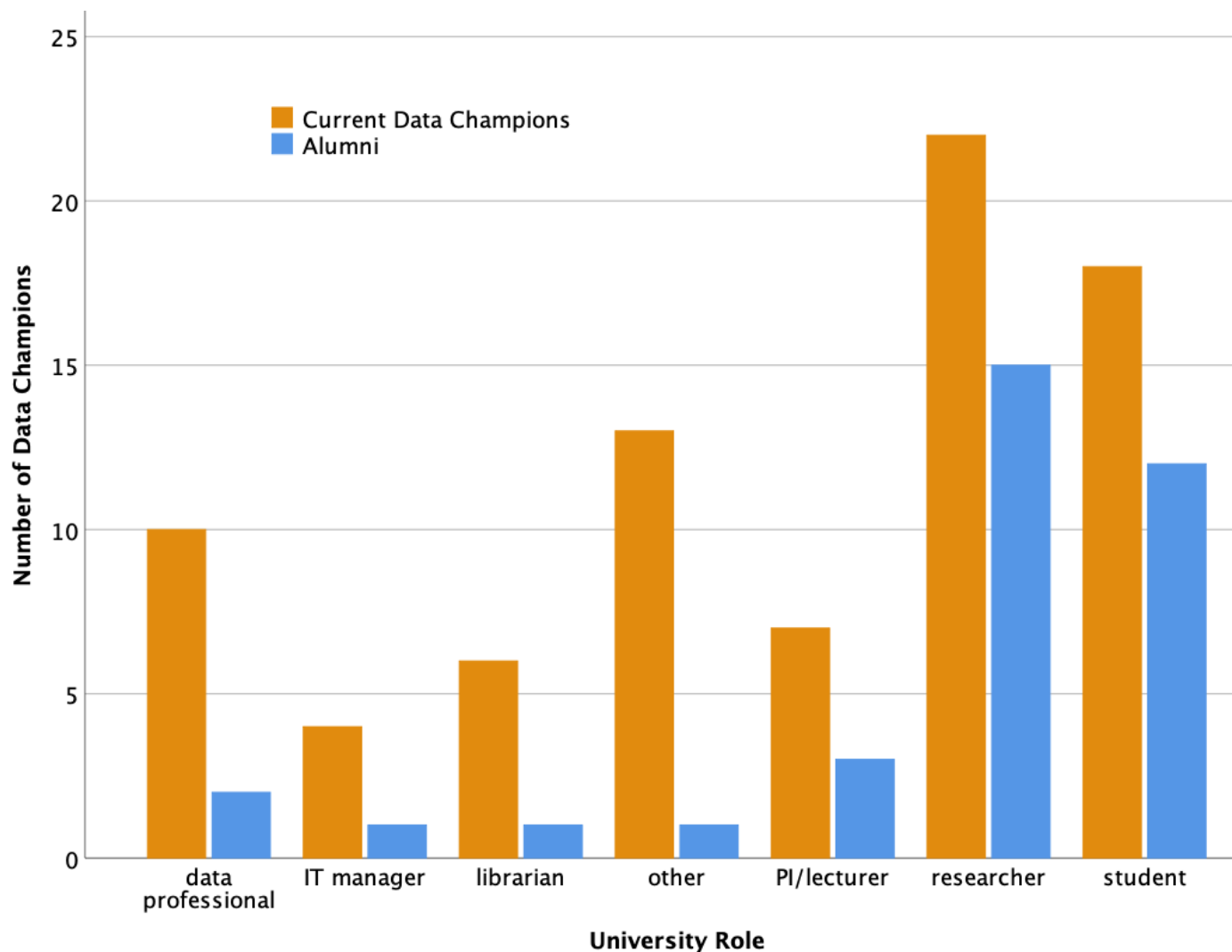
Data Champion Programme | Data Champions | Challenges | Future

facts & figures



Data Champion Programme | Data Champions | Challenges | Future

facts & figures



'other' includes:

- research assistants
- research governance
- research manager
- technical manager
- scholarly communication support
- research development
- project administrator
- grants administrator
- publishing manager

What is your main motivation for becoming a Data Champion?

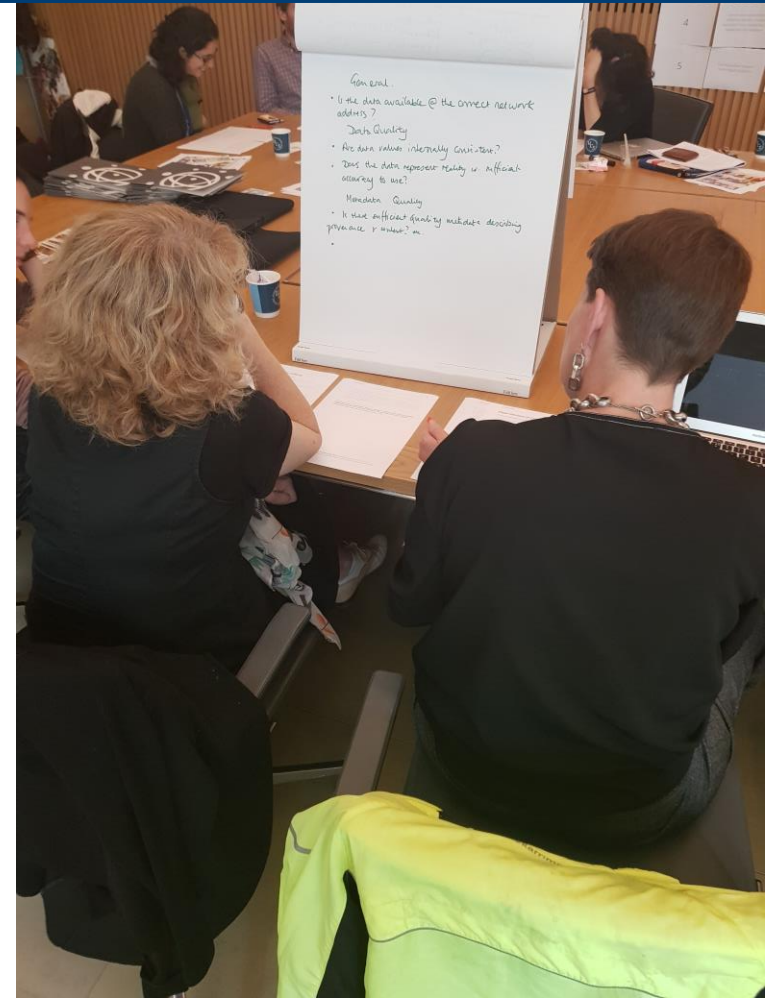


In their own research communities, DCs are to

- Raise awareness of RDM
- Promote benefits of data sharing
- Provide discipline-specific advice

Minimum expectations

- Attend induction
- Attend min. 2 forums per year
- Respond to surveys & info. requests
- Provide info. on DC activities
- Inform on changes in circumstances



Sept 2018 forum

Documented Data Champion activities as of January 2019

Workshops & Presentations	Other Activities
File management	Open Data FAQ
Data sharing	Bite-size emails
Avoiding data disasters	Training needs analysis
Writing data management plans	1:1 RDM and data analysis support
Repositories	Data Policy
Code management	Data Audit
GitHub introduction	Outreach materials
'Bring your own data' workshop	Electronic Lab Notebook trial

Source: Savage, J. & Cadwallader, L. (in press, 2019). 'Establishing, Developing, and Sustaining a Community of Data Champions', *Data Science Journal*.



Challenges

Challenge

- Ongoing financial support for a growing programme
- Ongoing University support

Resolved?

- University backing secure
- Financial support secure for now
- Seeking additional funds, especially opportunities for DC grants

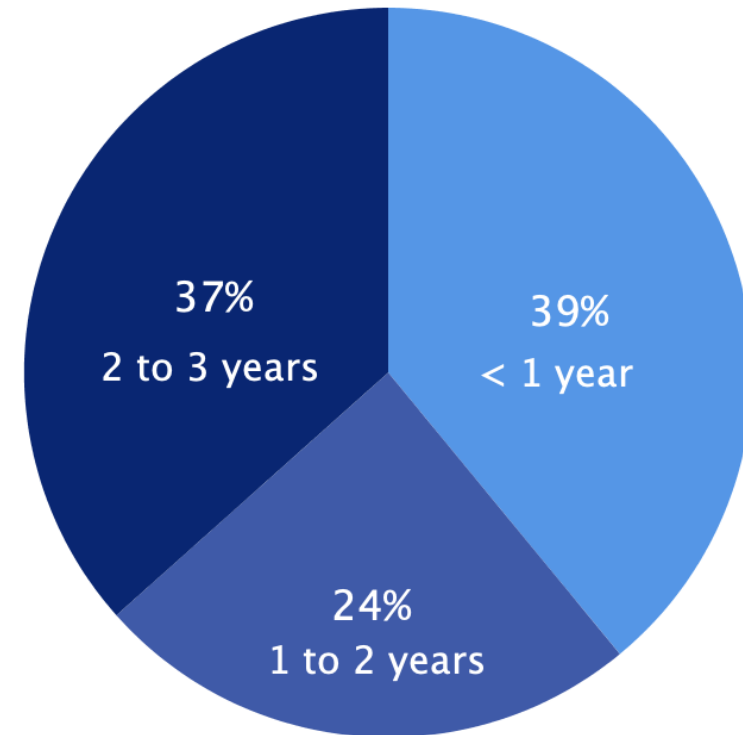


There are 41 alumni DCs
(25 gave reasons for leaving)

Lack of
time
(32%)

Left Cambridge
(68%)

Time DC alumni spent in the
programme



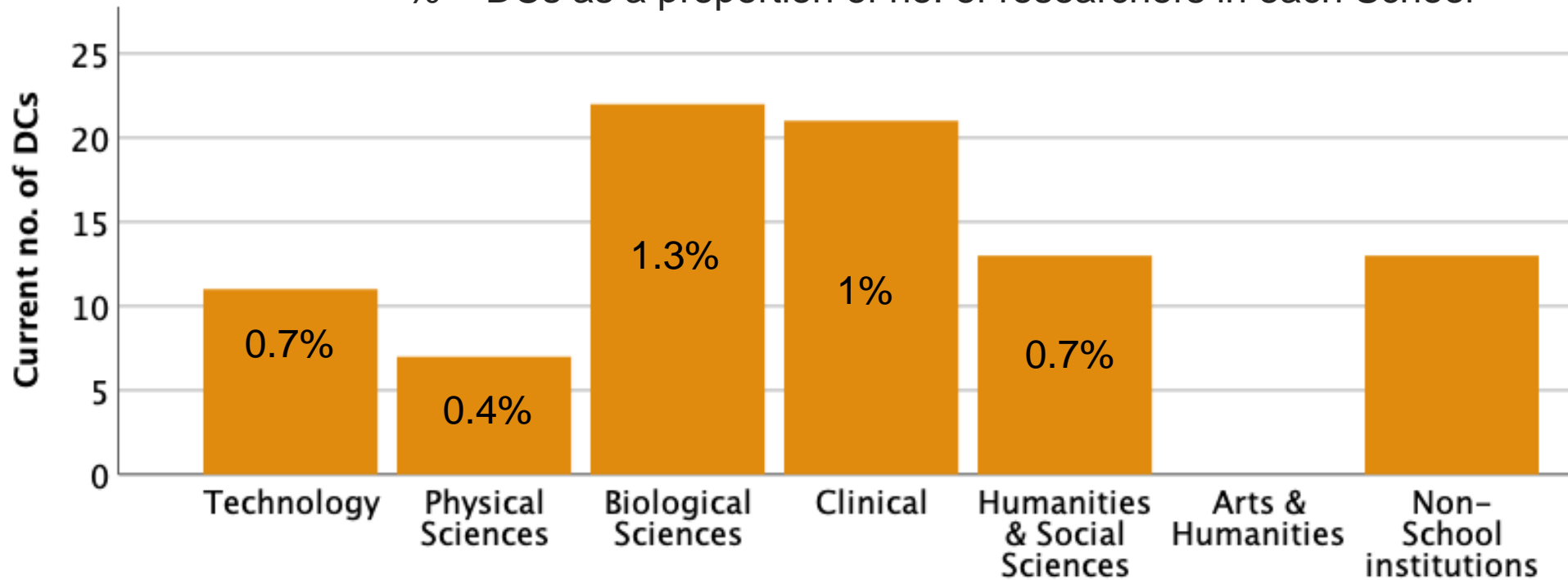
Solutions:

- Communicate time commitment
- Mentor support
- Clear exit process – advance planning for successor
- Facilitate community networking

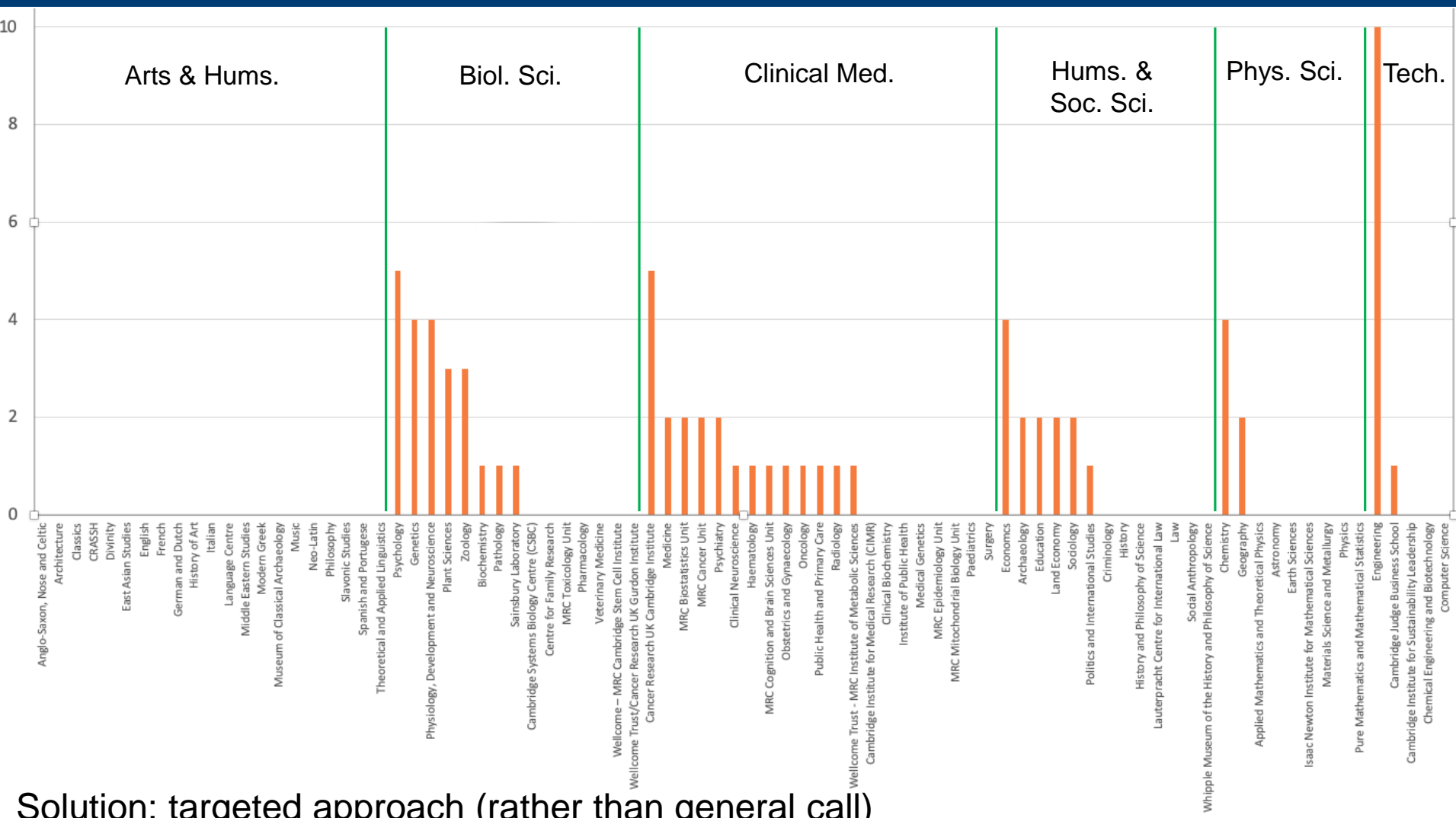
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coverage

% = DCs as a proportion of no. of researchers in each School



Data Champion Programme | Data Champions | Challenges | Future coverage



Solution: targeted approach (rather than general call)

Challenge: to measure the programme's effectiveness

- Is it working?
- Is it contributing to a change in research culture?

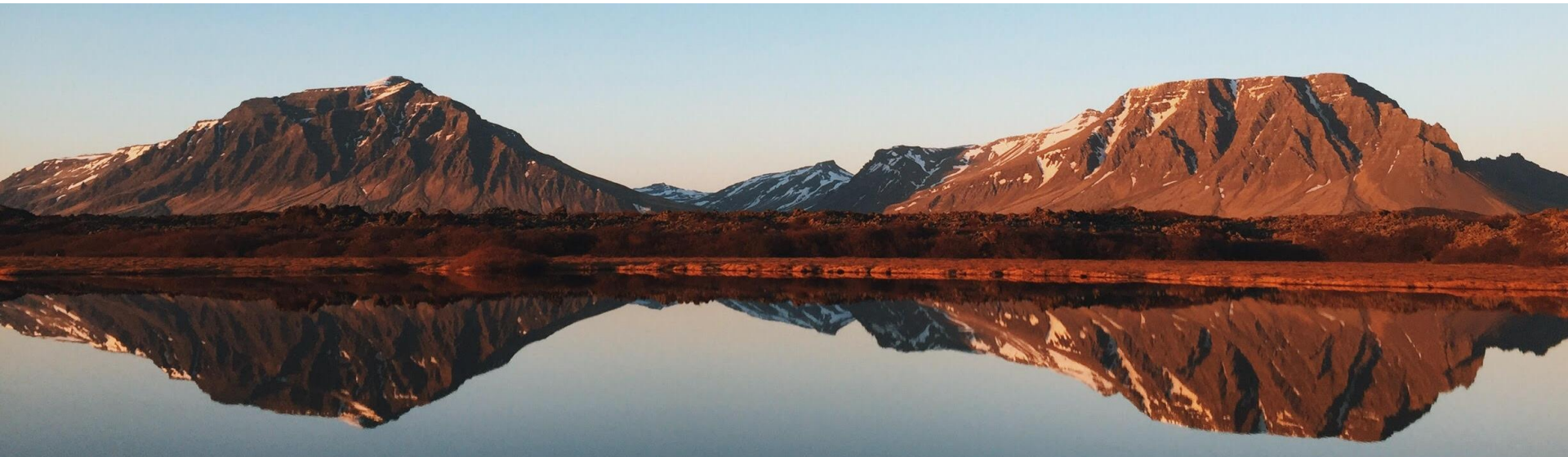
Working towards some solutions

- Good communications between DCs and OSC
- Establish annual survey
- DCs to discern impact of activities



Data Champion Programme | Data Champions | Challenges | Future

- Evaluate programme and explore viable solutions to challenges
- Implement appropriate methods to measure programme's effectiveness
- Focus on community aspect
- Preparation for expansion in advance



Thank you to ...

- ❖ RDMF team at OSC, particularly Lauren Cadwallader and Maria Angelaki
- ❖ Members of the Cambridge RDM Outreach and Support Group
- ❖ Marta Teperek, Rosie Higman and Danny Kingsley
- ❖ All the University of Cambridge Data Champions, past and present
- ❖ Ralitsa Madsen

