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Research Data Management: an italian case study

Marisol Occioni
Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

Paola Galimberti
Università degli Studi di Milano

Research Data Management: an Italian case study

Paola Galimberti (University of Milan)
Marisol Occioni (Ca'Foscari University of Venice)

The focus of this presentation is to speak about an informal cooperation between a group of Italian universities in order to deliver a shared model of

→ Research Data Management policy
→ Research Data Management template

aiming at a well-developed national Data Management Plan, compliant with EU-funded projects or other funders requirements.

The main problem of the group was: the lack of Italian guidelines (policy or plan).

We are proposing an example of a bottom-up initiative.

The italian context: CRUI

CRUI (The Conference of Italian University Rectors):

- is an association of state and private Italian universities,

- a reference point with capacity to influence the development of the Italian university system,

- has a representative role in carrying out projects and developing policies,

- the OA WG is still not working on research data.

The international context: EU

What are Research Data Management main concerns?

- organisation of data (entry, research cycle, dissemination & archiving of valuable results);
- being part of the research process, and aiming to make it as efficient as possible & meet requirements of the university, funders, legislation.

It concerns how to:

Create data and plan for its use,
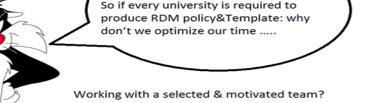
Organise, structure & name data,

Keep data (secure, provide access, store and back up),

Find information resources

Share & **re-use** data, publish and get cited.

Our group starting point

- Common needs & OpenAIRE - NOAD contact

- absence of Italian guidelines, no endorsement

- in most cases, no internal structure in universities; no RDM and data stewardship integration in institutional communication strategy

- necessity to support researchers in grant applications

So if every university is required to produce RDM policy&Template: why don't we optimize our time .....

Working with a selected & motivated team?
Sharing and comparing the work?
Have the possibility to adopt, adapt, improve the models?
Support researchers in responding projects requirements, promoting good DMP?

The group & competencies

Positive feedback from colleagues:

- Politecnico di Milano
- Università Ca'Foscari Venezia
- Università di Bologna
- Università di Milano
- Università di Padova
- Università di Torino
- Università di Trento

Different skills and different roles:

IT service, Digital library, Research Support Service, Legal service

Working method

3 WG: main coordinator Paola Gargiulo (OpenAIRE- NOAD, Cineca).

Group n. 1: deliverable ➜ <u>Policy model</u>, coordinator Paola Galimberti (Università di Milano)

Group n. 2: deliverable ➜ <u>Template</u>, coordinator Marisol Occioni (Università Ca'Foscari Venezia)

Group n. 3: deliverable ➜ <u>E-Infrastructure</u>, coordinator Michele Rubini (Politecnico di Milano)

- Every member decided which group to belong to
- No meetings in presence, only on-line, mailing list, wiki, materials shared on google drive
- 6 Plenary sessions from April to October 2016

GROUP n. 1: POLICY

Background:
- results of the LEARN project, policies of the University of Edinburgh and of UCL, Austrian group e- infrastructures
- local interviews on research data management and researchers needs and habits (data type, size, archiving, long term preservation

Timing:
- first draft July
- second draft August
- final document October

Next steps:
- Adoption of the policy (approval by SA)

Main issues

- Introduction (why?)
- A definition of research data (what?)
- Handling of research data (where, how long?)
- Ownership
- Responsibilities

GROUP n. 2: TEMPLATE

Task:

- analyze documents & templates from DCC, the European project LEARN, E-infrastructures Austria and several European universities

- provide a simple & clear template, accompanied by self-explaining examples

Type of data	Descrivere se sono qualitativi, quantitativi
Nature and formats	Descrivere natura e formato dei dati (meglio se di formato non proprietario), ad esempio: a) documenti testo (DOC, ODF, PDF, TXT, etc); b) immagini (JPG, GIF, SVG, PNG, TIFF); c) video/film (MPEG, AVI, WMV, MP4); d) registrazioni audio (MP3, WAV, AIFF, OGG, etc); e) dati strutturati (HTML, JSON, TEX, XML, RDF); f) tabelle (CSV, ODS,TSV, XLS, SAS, Stata, SPSS portable); g) codici sorgente (C, CSS, JavaScript, Java, etc); h) configuration data (INI, CONF, etc).

Timing:

- 1st draft: July; 2nd draft: August; Final version: October

DMP Template structure:

- Administrative details
- Dataset description
- Standards & metadata
- Data Management, Documentation and Curation
- Data security, Ethics and Legal compliance
- Data sharing and access
- Responsibilities
- Institutional policies on data sharing and security

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STRONG POINTS

- Easy to work in an informal working group
- High motivation of the participating institutions (better saying of the members of the group)
- Possibility to take advantage of previous experiences (and materials) and outcomes

WEAK POINTS

- Lack of endorsement
- Lack of awareness of the importance of research data (and of open access to scientific publications tout court) at ministerial level

This poor awareness at central level results in:
- a lack of interest at local level so that research data are not (yet) an issue in many universities
- a lack of instruments (both conceptual and technical) to manage data production, archiving and preservation
- No funding for research data management.

FUTURE STEPS

Dissemination:

Sharing of the outcomes on OAWiki- Italia

Presentation of the work results in workshops and conferences

Development:
Involvement of the OA WG of CRUI

Completion and enrichment of the current documentation