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## Jisc Final Report

Project Information			
<b>Project Identifier</b>	UKRDDS		
<b>Project Title</b>	UK Research Data Discovery Service		
<b>Project Hashtag</b>	#JiscRDDS		
<b>Start Date</b>	30 March 2015	<b>End Date</b>	30 Sept 2016 (revised from 31 July 2016)
<b>HEI/Data Centre</b>	University of Glasgow		
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Document Information			
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<b>Project Role(s)</b>	Technical Co-ordination		
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<b>Access</b>	This report is for general dissemination		

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## 1 Acknowledgements

The Research Data Discovery Service (RDDS) project was funded by Jisc from October 2014 to September 2016 (and extended to November 2016). This report summarises the University of Glasgow's activities and achievements during the project's duration.

## 2 Project Summary

The project's aim was to increase the visibility, discovery and linking of research data held in different institutions and data centres across the UK. The University of Glasgow was one of fourteen partners that took part in the project by contributing datasets, developing user requirements, participating in workshops and evaluating the resulting tool.

## 3 Main Body of Report

### 3.1 Project Team

Name	Email	Role
Valerie McCutcheon	Valerie.McCutcheon@glasgow.ac.uk	Project Manager
Mick Eadie	Michael.Eadie@glasgow.ac.uk	Technical Support
Mary Donaldson	Mary.Donaldson@glasgow.ac.uk	Researcher Support
Niels Cadee	Niels.Cadee@glasgow.ac.uk	Researcher Support

### 3.2 Requirements

The university's main requirements were:

- To increase the visibility and accessibility of the university's research data.
- To evaluate the completeness and quality of the university's research data.
- To test metadata mappings, crosswalks and exchange of research data.
- To explore ideas and work collaboratively with other research data providers across the UK

The university's research data endpoint for data harvesting can be found at:

<http://researchdata.gla.ac.uk/cgi/oai2>

### 3.3 Project Outputs and Outcomes

Output / Outcome Type (e.g. report, publication, software, knowledge built)	Brief Description and URLs (where applicable)
Knowledge	The project enabled the university to evaluate the quality of its research data metadata and put in place workflows to address any gaps or inconsistencies when compared with research data at partner institutions.
Workshop	Sharing Qualitative Data

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendance Invite: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sharing-qualitative-data-tickets-20923471667">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sharing-qualitative-data-tickets-20923471667</a></li><li>• Presentation: <a href="https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/media/604476/sharqual_data_glasgow_lb_22june2016.pdf">https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/media/604476/sharqual_data_glasgow_lb_22june2016.pdf</a></li></ul>
Workshop	Digital Preservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendance Invite: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/digital-preservation-workshop-tickets-25479255138">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/digital-preservation-workshop-tickets-25479255138</a></li></ul>

### **3.4 Issues and Challenges**

The University of Glasgow has well-established repositories with mature services already available for research publications and theses. The university's research data repository (Enlighten: Research Data) went live in January 2013. The project team were able to harness and build on the university's experience with EPrints software and were well supported by the university in the various tasks set by the project.

Dublin Core (DC) metadata mapping is built into EPrints and therefore there were no technical issues in using this for making metadata available to be harvested by the project. However in the course of the work some mapping anomalies did come to light. For example, the data digital object identifier (DOI) was not picked up as an identifier field. This was mainly due to the way the standard EPrints DC mapping was using locally defined repository fields. Ideally work could be done to produce a revised mapping between EPrints research data repositories and the RDDS profile and be fed back into the community. This is something we hope we will be able to happen in future.

### **3.5 What did you learn?**

Through participation in the project the University able to gain fuller understanding of processes involved in sharing and contributing metadata to a wider audience, including:

- Required metadata to make datasets discoverable.
- Enhancement to mappings and harvest metadata to make datasets discoverable.
- An evaluation of processes and workflows in relation to qualitative data and in digital preservation.

### **3.6 Immediate Impact**

The project enabled us to fine tune metadata requirements and ensure what we routinely collect fit with wider community standards and end user expectations.

The university was also able to build its knowledge in areas where we required more knowledge such as in describing and managing qualitative data and in digital preservation requirements.

The wider community has benefitted from the project with regards to the accessibility of research data, and researchers from across the world now have the potential to access and use quality datasets from a wide variety of sources seamlessly and easily.

### **3.7 Future Impact**

We continue to work collaboratively with project partners and share our findings with the wider research data community. We hope to be involved in future phases of the RDDS work and that many

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more institutions and data centres can contribute data and share their expertise to build a truly complete picture of the UK research data landscape providing users with an unrivalled resource for searching and finding data to help them in their work.

Future work around the richness of the descriptive data and the further development of tools and functionality to help researchers find and use research data, will make what is currently an alpha based research data discovery service into a fully functioning, complete and useful system tailored to their needs.

## 4 Conclusions

Overall we feel it was a good thing for the University of Glasgow to be involved in the RDDS project. The university learned a lot about requirements for data sharing, and was also able to build on existing knowledge and explore areas such as digital preservation and sharing qualitative data in more depth.

The key component of the project was the collaborative approach taken with many institutions working together and sharing experience, which made for a richer outcome. We would encourage the community to continue to work together on standard definitions and metadata profile for research data. We would also encourage the community to continue to work together in addressing researchers needs and the user experience to develop a truly world leading research data discovery service in future phases of the project.

## 5 Recommendations

We would recommend that the RDDS project:

- Build on current work and invited contributions from many more institutions and data centres.
  - This could be done remotely through the setting up of a shared online space and mailing list for participating institutions and datacentres. And also involve two or three face to meetings per year where the wider group can come together to discuss progress and set further directions. If there was a need for smaller 'working groups' around specific issues, e.g. metadata profile, then these could be set up and run alongside the main group.
- Develop a community standard metadata profile for research data exchange.
  - This could be led by the participating institutions and Jisc, but also invite input from other analogous organisations to ensure wider take up and requirements analysis. For example, it could feed into groups like the Consortia Advancing Standards in Research Administration (CASRAI) and also other research data initiatives like DataCite and Schema.org.
- Further develop and enhance our understanding of researcher needs and expectations.
  - More work will need to be done in user needs analysis. This will involve engagement with working researchers from a variety of disciplines. Ideally user analysis will involve formal user testing through observation and task and well as through gathering analytics on more general behavioural trends of researchers.

## 6 Implications for the future

Building a community based and shared approach to the RDDS will have long lasting benefits for the future. It will help the service grow and meet the needs of its users; it will foster other collaborations

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and sharing of expertise across the research data sector; and it will enable the service to be sustainable as many institutions will have a vested interest in its success.

The University of Glasgow would like to continue to be involved in future work and feels that this is a fundamental part of building an open, collaborative and sustainable research data community.

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<sup>i</sup> Enlighten Research Data <http://researchdata.gla.ac.uk>