Collaboration in research data management (RDM) activities – Practices and development at Aalto University

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Munin Conference 22. – 23.11.2017, Tromso
The premises of the RDM work

**WHAT?**
- Develop unified university level and domain specific RDM services for schools and departments.
- Coordinate RDM activities and ensure the interoperability of services.

**WHY?**
- Enable validation and repeatability of findings, and opening of data.
- Meet the funders, government and researchers demands.
- Provides the service infrastructure expressed in the RDM policy.

**HOW?**
- Establishing the university level RDM working group (WG) and the RDM programme to steer the work of WG.
- Involving the researchers in the RDM work.
The actors roles in nutshell

- Mainly centralised services, e.g. publishing, metadata cataloguing, DMPTuuli
- School level: ACRIS maintenance, the school liaisons.

The Research data Management Working Group (WG)

- The Library’s (Learning Centre) Research and Publication team
- The strategy unit
- The service unit
- IT Solutions for Research team

- Services on university and school levels
- Counselling for funding and project management.
- Help in writing application documents like DM plans.
- Commercialisation and legal services
- E.g. data storage and collaboration solutions
- School level:
- Interface to IT infrastructure
- E.g. special data processing needs
Aalto Research Data Management Programme: Action points 2016-2020

1. Open access publishing of research articles – policy and process
   - Done

2. Implementation of Data Management Planning Tool, DMPTuuli
   - Done

3. Metadata Catalogue for Aalto’s open data, ACRIS
   - Partially done

4. Data Publishing, several repositories (domain specific, ACRIS, Zenodo...)
   - Partially done

5. Comprehensive services for storage, backup and collaboration
   - Planning ongoing

6. Combining openness and innovations, Aalto as a trailblazer
   - Planning ongoing

7. Awareness building activities
Data agents are

- Working in the departments.
- Departments own researchers who spend part of the time
  - Increasing the awareness of RDM practices among researchers.
  - Helping in the domain/data type specific RDM questions, e.g. storing, processing, sharing and opening data.
- Funding for 2017-2020.
- The activities include, e.g. office hours for helping sessions, discussions/ interviews with personnel to find out the RDM related challenges and the service needs.
- Messengers and bridge builders between local needs and university level service personnel.
RDM work at CHEM
- Led by the Scientific Publishing Committee
- Decision made to start developing RDM work at the school and in the departments:
  1) Selection of the data examples.
  2) Application of the data and domain specific RDM practices in data handling.
  3) Planning and implementation of education based on the data examples.

Empirical Wonderland (EW) project in BIZ
- Studied the RDM practices and the attitudes on open data issues in the departments.
- Mapped the availability of the data.
- Investigated concepts to establish an open research and open data platform to attract international researchers.
Conclusion

The Working Group has established its existence.

The university level RDM collaboration has enabled to

- Define the unified tasks for RDM development.
- Identify the RDM actors and crucial topics.
- Start university level and local level activities.

Next steps include

- Confirming the school level services.
- Consolidating the Working Group’s operations.
- Increasing the co-operation within the research services.
!Thank you!