The development of RDM policy at Wageningen University & Research

Best practices as a framework

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Wageningen University & Research
Wageningen University & Research

University (food, environment, plant, animal, social)

- ~ 10.000 students
- ~ 2.500 employees (scientific: xx)
- Yearly ~ 250 PhD student graduations
Wageningen University & Research

Research (food, environment, plant, animal, social)

- ~ 2.500 employees (scientific: xx)
- National research institutes
RDM policy history
RDM policy history

- 2010: first discussion on data between researchers, graduate schools and library
- 2014: first RDM policy: all PhD students and University chairs must have a Data Management Plan
- 2015: RDM services by Library, IT, legal and archive
- 2016: Evaluation of RDM behaviour
- 2017: New policy
RDM policy history

Dean of Science asked Taskforce RDM

Make a proposal for a new, more advanced policy for Data Storage, Data Archiving and Data Registration

- National frameworks
- Diversity in the organisation
- Best practices
Use cases

Matching use cases to criteria

Defining policy

Easy adoption

Criteria from frameworks
National frameworks

- National Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice
- Archives act
- FAIR principles

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<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td>Data storage</td>
<td>The storage solution allows the encryption of sensitive data files.</td>
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<td>The stored data is protected against physical access and disasters (e.g. fire), and has an emergency power system.</td>
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<td>The storage solution enables the sharing of datafiles.</td>
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<td>Data archiving</td>
<td>The archive provides datasets with persistent identifiers.</td>
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<td>The archive provides metadata fields so that datasets can be described and found.</td>
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<td>The archive has a back-up and recovery system in place.</td>
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<td>Data registration</td>
<td>The registration system allows the establishing of links between articles and datasets.</td>
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<td>It is possible to set up links between the datasets and other organizational records.</td>
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<td>It is possible to provide URLs to the location of the datasets.</td>
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Selecting use cases

5 domains (food, plant, social, environment, animal)
University & Research

Six dimensions
  Size
  Legal complexity
  Confidentiality level
  Lifespan
  Value
  Number of disciplines
Interviews

Questions were to assess compatibility with National Frameworks:

Four categories:
General on project and data handling
Storage during and archiving after research
Accessibility
RDM support
Interviews

Questions were to assess compatibility with National Frameworks, e.g.:

- Is it possible for other people to access your data after your research is finished? If so, how
- What kind of documentation do you add to your data?
Results: Data storage

Data storage:
All cases matched the criteria defined
Most use storage services offered by IT service
Some have local servers

Data archiving:
Two out of five archived data in sustainable/trusted archives
One out of five
Results: Data archiving

Data archiving:

Two out of five archived data in sustainable/trusted domain specific archives

Others only archive when journal requires this

Occasionally institutional servers used for archiving
Results: Data registration

Data registration:

Only one use case consistently registered their data sets in the institutional repository.
New RDM policy

Dean of Science asked Taskforce RDM

Make a proposal for a new, more advanced policy for Data Storage, Data Archiving and Data Registration

- National frameworks
- Diversity in the organisation
- Best practices
Brief on the new RDM policy

All Wageningen University & Research researchers should:

During research:
Store their data on WUR servers, or on servers approved by IT (RDM services)

After research:
Archive all data underlying a publication in a trusted archive, which meets FAIR criteria
Register their data in the institutional repository
Advantages of engaging researchers

It created RDM awareness!

Build on what is already done
- It avoids building or buying new infrastructure
- It meets researchers workflows, and practices
- It facilitates adoption

Less rules, better services, happy clients/researchers
I share my tree research data online at WUR Library

Wageningen University & Research - Library
Accelerate your research
www.wur.eu/library