

Research Data Management (RDM)

Awareness and perceptions among University of the Free state
Library and Information Services (UFS LIS) executive
management and information librarians with a view to establish
RDM support services at the UFS



National
Research
Foundation

PO Box 2600
Pretoria 0001
South Africa
Tel: (012) 481 4000
Fax: (012) 349 1179
Int. Code: +27 12
info@nrf.ac.za

www.nrf.ac.za

Statement on Open Access to Research Publications from the National Research Foundation (NRF)-Funded Research

Background

The National Research Foundation (NRF) was established through the National Research Foundation Act (Act No.23 of 1998). As an independent statutory agency, the organisation promotes and supports research in South Africa largely through the country's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), National Research Facilities and Science Councils with a view to generating knowledge and promoting high-level research capacity within the National System of Innovation (NSI).

Supporting scientific research through public funding is important for growing the knowledge economy, promoting innovation and stimulating appropriate development. The publication of NRF-funded research outputs contributes to the knowledgebase of the country. Open access to this knowledge base facilitates:

- Dissemination of knowledge;
- Utilisation/uptake/application of this knowledge
- Accelerated transformation and globalisation of science; and
- Rapid transformation of this knowledge into innovative and developed applications for the benefit of society.

Statement

The NRF recognises the importance of Open Access to science and research while at the same time appreciating that Open Access will continue to evolve in response to societal needs, achieving overarching policy harmonisation and new innovative publishing business models.

From 01 March 2015, authors of research papers generated from research either fully or partially funded by NRF, when submitting and publishing in academic journals, should deposit their final peer-reviewed manuscripts that have been accepted by the journals, to the administering Institution Repository with an embargo period of no more than 12 months. Earlier Open Access may be provided should this be allowed by the publisher. If the paper is published in an Open Access journal or the publisher allows the deposit of the public version in PDF format, such version should be deposited into the administering Institution Repository and Open Access should be provided as soon as possible.

In addition, the data supporting the publication should be deposited in an accredited Open Access repository, with the provision of a Digital Object Identifier for future citation and referencing.

The NRF encourages its stakeholder community, including NRF's Business Units and National Research Facilities, to:

- Formulate detailed policies on Open Access of publications and data from its funded research;
- Establish Open Access repositories; and
- Support public access to the repositories through web search and retrieval according to international standards and best practice.

The NRF requires its relevant Business Units and National Research Facilities to actively collaborate with relevant governmental departments and public higher education and research institutions to facilitate Open Access to publications generated from publicly funded research. The NRF requires its stakeholder community to actively seek collaboration with the international scientific community to facilitate the Open Access of publications generated from publicly funded research across the world.

“From 01 March 2015, authors of research papers generated from research either fully or partially funded by NRF, when submitting and publishing in academic journals, should deposit their final peer-reviewed manuscripts that have been accepted by the journals, to the administering institution repository ...

In addition, the data supporting the publication should be deposited in an accredited Open Access repository, with the provision of a Digital Object Identifier for future citation and referencing.”

“The NRF encourages its stakeholder community ... to: formulate detailed policies on OA ... establish OA repositories ... support public access to the repositories ... to international standards and best practice.”



At the UFS

- RDM policy
- UFS research community awareness
- Funder and publisher requirements
- Data repository investigation

Action research at the UFS LIS

- Librarians publishing & sharing
- Improving services
- 5 groups:
 - E-books
 - Embedded librarianship
 - Graded Readers
 - RDM
 - Shared leadership

Problem

Research data management awareness and perceptions among UFS LIS executive management and information librarians with a view to establish RDM support services at the University of the Free State

Phase 1: Research question

What is the existing RDM awareness and perceptions among UFS LIS executive management and information librarians?

Methodology

–Plan → Act → Observe → Reflect

–Qualitative

–Semi-structured one-on-one interviews

Research instrument: Interviews

- Informed consent
- Shared understanding of:
 - Research data
 - RDM
 - Data and Open Access
 - Data Management Plans (DMPs)

Interviews (cont.)

- What are your qualifications and work experience?
- Which faculty do you support?
- How would you rate your knowledge regarding RDM?
- Which aspects in particular do you find unclear?
- Have you ever lost data or know a researcher who has experienced data loss?
- What do you think are the challenges around storing and preserving data?
- In your opinion, what are the challenges regarding RDM?
- Now that you have a better understanding of RDM, who do you think should be responsible?
- Where do you think the Library can provide RDM support?
- Do you foresee any challenges for the Library in establishing/providing RDM support?
- Do you have any further suggestions regarding the way forward with regards to the role the Library can play to establish support services at the UFS?

Preliminary results

“I store my data on a memory stick and that can get corrupted in the first place, it can get lost, it can get stolen. And I don't do a back up. So I think we should be educated on how to store all our data in several ways.”

Preliminary results

“What are you allowed to share, how are you allowed to share...

There is more to sharing as ‘here is the information / here is the data’.”

Preliminary results

LIS executive management noted that there is currently no institutional guidelines for researchers and postgraduate students on how to store and manage their research data.

Preliminary results

“People when they retire, probably they’re leaving with the data in their laptops.”

The way forward

- Plan → Act → Observe → Reflect (→ Plan...)
- Preliminary results: raising awareness and training
- Changes in awareness and perception
- (→ Plan...)

Team members

Carmen Nel (Research Librarian)

Cornelle Scheltema-Van Wyk (Repository Manager)

Gadi Moshotloa (Repository Librarian)

Hesma van Tonder (Research Librarian) – team leader

Neo Molemela (Systems Librarian)

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Questions?

