

Notes of Round Table 1:

Roles and Competencies of acting entities

Moderator: Paul Ayrís, UCL

Rapporteur: Barbara Sánchez Solís, University of Vienna

Q: Who is the author of the RDM policy?

According to the attendees this is usually a common joint initiative of libraries, research support offices and ICT departments. Ideally it should be a multidisciplinary team. One representative from the University of Heidelberg mentioned that their policy was drafted in collaboration with the library, the grants office and the legal office. In the case of the University of Venice, policy development would be a task done by the university's Data Management Board. At the University of Milan, the design of the policy is with the Commission for Open Access which comprises representatives of different university departments. Paul Ayrís mentioned that in the case of UCL, the RDM policy was an initiative from the library; they were the principal author. A representative of the University of Geneva commented that their university has already drafted a policy but they intend to align this with other Swiss Universities.

Only a few institutions represented at the Workshop in Vienna have got RDM policies in place; the majority are in the progress of policy development. One Austrian-based funder said that they would align with other national funders when drafting policies.

Q: Who approves a policy?

Usually this is done by a Board of Directors, the Academic Senate respectively. the Rectorates. In Austria, this process usually goes through the vice rectorates of research first.

Q: Who reviews the policy?

Since there is only little experience with existing RDM policies, this question cannot be answered in detail. One attendee proposes that the reviews should be external. At UCL, there is an annual report that goes to the university's management team. Paul Ayrís said that he presumed that funders in the UK might start sending out letters with lists of questions that will serve as 'policy checklists'.

As far as review of data management is concerned, the representative of one major Austrian funding agency mentioned that they might possibly use the model for publications also for data, meaning that along with the final report they would check where the data is stored.

Q: How about the assignment of roles, competencies and obligations?

It was generally agreed that the main driver for implementing RDM policies is coming from the funders. In the UK, there are 7 research councils. Except for one or two funders, their terms of RDM enforcement are lighter and less formal than enforcement for Open Access publications.

As for institutional RDM services, the offer depends a lot on the institutions. In the UK, where most of the research institutions have policies in place, the pattern of RDM services is mixed. At UCL, the RDM office is funded by the research budget.

The researchers generally have a subject-specific approach, the acceptance of RDM services will depend a lot on the domain, so researchers need to be consulted when it comes to the development of services. There are also some subject-specific archives that support RDM. One of the suggestions of the European Open Science Cloud is to support storage.

Conclusion: Implementing a policy is key for setting up RDM services. The institutions understand what kind of support they already have, what needs to be set up and which departments need to collaborate. A policy is the start of a recognition process for an institution/other stakeholders to understand that they have assigned roles and responsibilities.