Small steps to building research data management capability
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Background

- Monash University Library has 40 contact librarians supporting 10 faculties across 8 Australian libraries
- Contact librarians work in cross campus faculty teams collaborating and sharing skills
- Five library staff members were seconded to work on the ANDS project team under its commencement and another thirty contributed to the project by involvement in the interviews with researchers
- The project team benefitted from the expertise of the contact librarians and their relationships with the researchers in their faculties
- Contact librarians benefitted by building on existing working relationships and creating new opportunities for interaction with the researchers. Their comments are highlighted in Figure 2.
- Knowledge of data management processes developed through collaboration with members of the project team

Faculty participation in interviews

- Health
- Education
- Medical
- Science
- Business
- Arts
- IT
- Pharmacy
- Engineering
- Law

Monash University Library Research Data Collections Project

Project goals

- Ensuring data collections from selected publicly funded research projects are discoverable and, where possible, accessible
- Building human capability at the local level and contributing to the national community emerging from ANDS-related activities

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Sustainability after the project

Library initiatives

- Skills and experience gained throughout the project will be retained within the library
- Formulate action plans and create working groups of librarians to sustain partnerships with researchers
- Working with researchers to improve the way research data is stored, managed and disseminated
- Utilise the in-depth expertise of former project team members, carried out as a structured program with clear roles and responsibilities

University initiatives

- Developing and trialling data planning methodologies with a sub-set of researchers that have successfully applied for ARC grants
- Mainstreaming data management skills through an expanded program of professional development opportunities for researchers, especially Higher Degree by Research students
- Rollout of the Monash University Research Data Management Policy Framework to selected groups across the university

The Research Data Collection Projects has reinforced the need for the Library to engage researchers early in the research project planning process, and ideally early in their research careers. The skills and expertise built through the ANDS Research Data Collections Project will enable library staff to make earlier and more effective interventions to improve research data management at Monash University.

Project acknowledgement

This project is supported by the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy Program, as well as through the Monash University Library.

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