DMPTool: Expert Resources and Support for Data Management Planning

Objectives:
A growing number of funding agencies require data management plans (DMP) as part of new research grant proposals. One of the challenges facing institutions is providing a support structure for potential researcher knowledge gaps in the process. The DMPTool is a free, open source tool designed to not only assist in the DMP writing process, but also connect researchers to best practices and support at their institutions. These objectives are well aligned with many of the goals of the Research Data Alliance. We will demonstrate the role the DMPTool plays in the data lifecycle, and how it can be effectively implemented to best support the research community.

On-going activities:
The DMPTool provides specific requirements from dozens of funding agencies as well as detailed help with each area of the plan. Currently the DMPTool allows institutions to add value to the data management planning by providing links to resources such as preservation repositories, consultation services, or news and event items for their campus. In addition, partner institutions can provide help for specific plan questions, including suggested responses. In an effort to continue improving the tool, the DMPTool collaboration presently has two grant funded projects underway: 1) support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to expand functionality and release a second version of the tool; and 2) support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide librarians with information to better integrate the DMPTool into their services. Both projects will be completed in February 2014. In Version 2 of the tool, users are able to track changes through creation, editing, submission, evaluation, and publication of DMPs. In addition, the new DMPTool enables role-based user authorization, allowing users to hold various roles within the interface: creators, collaborators, institutional administrators, and tool administrators.

Results:
We will highlight the current functionality of the tool, its uptake in the last two years, and our plans for new features and functionality in the upcoming version. We plan to engage with the RDA community to help us frame the high-level direction of the DMPTool project moving forward, including new functionality, opportunities for integration with other systems, processes, and services, sustainability, and expanding the user base and institutional participation. The team sees the Research Data Alliance community as an ideal place to promote this work and seek feedback.

URL: http://dmptool.org