Data Stewardship Wizard

https://ds-wizard.org/

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The **Data Stewardship Wizard** is a joint ELIXIR CZ and ELIXIR NL project bringing a smart solution for researchers to help them understand what is needed for good (FAIR based) Data Stewardship, to find ELIXIR experts to help out, and to build their own Data Management Plans. that is focused on getting the most value out of data management planning for the project itself rather than on fulfilling obligations.

Why Data Stewardship Planning

To support efficient, simple and smart work with data within research projects, an elaborate plan is desirable. Adopting **FAIR Data principles** is essential not just to satisfy requirements of funders, but to benefit your own research project as well.

> *Compare making a data management plan for a research project to the daily practice in any chemical lab to look up known dangers before running an experiment.*

Benefits of Data Stewardship

Dealing with Digital Data now takes a significant fraction of time in life science research projects. We can no longer afford to do this using trial and error. Data Stewardship and Data Stewardship planning can:

- Help budget (time and money) for data activities, avoiding surprises.
- Avoid risks of data loss, corruption or theft.
- Increase the reusability of the output for yourself (e.g. your new postdoc) and for others.

> *Data in the lab is larger and more complex than a photo library at home. And a photo library you maintain alone. It needs thought to make research data more reliable than a private photo library.*

How DS Wizard helps

The Data Stewardship Wizard accompanies a research project from the project proposal until the publication of the output.

- It highlights interesting experience and tools that are relevant for the project.
- It functions as a checklist for data stewards.
- Data experts and data service providers can make sure they are found.

> *Compare the use of the Data Stewardship Wizard by a project data steward to the use of a checklist by a pilot or surgeon.*
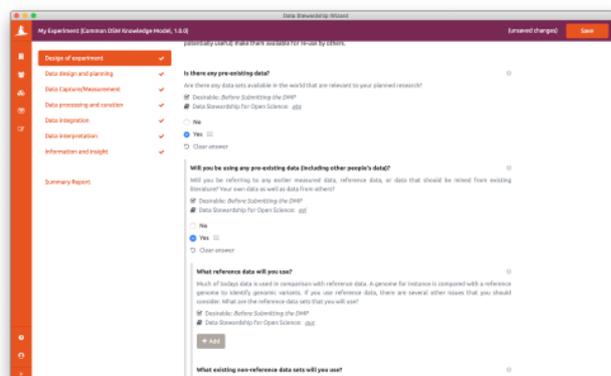
Daunting but not hard

As a researcher you may be put off if you hear that there are more than 300 questions in the Wizard, comparing it to 15 questions in a funders template for a data management plan. Note that:

- There are many questions but you will only see the ones relevant to the project and most of them simply require selecting an option, not writing a piece of text.
- The system has a lot of context-dependent guidance that can make your data management more efficient, and pointers to external materials to learn more.
- If your own institute manages its own copy of the wizard, you can be pointed to local experts and local expertise.
- Using the questionnaire, the wizard can write your (Science Europe) DMP automatically.

Future

We are working both on extending the functionality as well as the knowledge model. If you start using the Data Stewardship Wizard now, you will be able to benefit from the additional functions and knowledge over the course of your projects.

New in 2020!

https://ds-wizard.org/
DSW Working Group
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