

## Archives and Records Professionals for Research Data IG

### RDA Plenary 7 meeting, Tokyo

1 March 2016, 16.30-18.00

Chairs: Elise Dunham (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Email: [emdunham@illinois.edu](mailto:emdunham@illinois.edu)) and Rebecca Grant (Digital Repository of Ireland. Email: [r.grant@ria.ie](mailto:r.grant@ria.ie))

The meeting began with round table introductions by the chairs and participants, with each participant stating their interest in the connection between records management/archival theory and research data management.

Elise noted that the group has not yet been formally recognised and endorsed by RDA as the charter is still open for community review. The charter is available here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bDVQ3TjM78t90N8UneiK8uX6FOiZ8eGQP1t\\_C55m86o/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bDVQ3TjM78t90N8UneiK8uX6FOiZ8eGQP1t_C55m86o/edit) and comments are welcome.

Rebecca made a presentation on the specific skills of archivists and recordkeeping professionals and how they could potentially relate to research data curation and publication, referencing the report “The Archival Advantage: Integrating Archival Expertise into Management of Born-digital Library Materials” by Jackie Dooley[1]. The suggested areas of expertise included Ownership; Donor Relations; Intellectual Property; Appraisal; Context of Creation and Use; Authenticity; Restrictions on Access and Use; Transfer of Ownership; Permanence; and Collection-Level Metadata.

There was a discussion around the purpose of the IG. The two aims of the group are to provide a forum for discussion of how archives/records management principles can apply to data curation; and to communicate and coordinate with archives/records management professionals who may be outside of RDA to foster synergies, bring them into RDA, and bring the IG and relevant WG activities to the attention of the archives/records management field. The group discussed potential outputs and activities which relate to these aims.

The suggestions included the creation of a list of archival skills with explanations of their potential impact on research data management, and a mapping of archival competencies to research data management skills. It was also noted that non-archivists may not be familiar with archival terms such as “provenance”, so the creation of a terminology would be useful, particularly if this could be mapped to research data management terms. It is important to investigate whether any of these activities have already been undertaken elsewhere before doing this.

Other points were noted:

- Research data is not necessarily only digital – physical records and historical records may also constitute research data. The potential for collaboration with the Data Rescue IG was acknowledged.
- Archival finding aids may or may not be appropriate for describing research data; however they could prove more useful to researchers accessing datasets than current descriptive standards. It would be interesting to investigate this further.
- Are the concepts of original order and provenance relevant to research data?
- What are the overlaps between research data management and the challenges faced with archivists attempting to archive the web?

There was a breakout session and smaller groups discussed the questions posed by the chairs:

*How to connect with recordkeeping professionals outside RDA? What are the incentives?*

*Listservs/Orgs to reach out to?*

*How do we show that RDA is relevant to archives & records professionals?*

Notes submitted following the session are included below:

How to connect with recordkeeping professionals outside RDA? What are the incentives?

- Relevance in the digital age
- New employment positions
- Engage with LIS courses give formal accreditation

Listservs Organisations

- Association for archivists (Japan/everywhere)

- UK and Ireland Archives-NRA list
- JISC records management UK list
- DPOE – Digital Preservation outreach and education
- Digital Preservation Network Federation
- Planets project lead to – Open preservation foundation
- Digital preservation coalition
- University IT organisations eg. UCISA
- ANDS
- AERI

The chairs thanked the group for attending and reminded participants that the charter remains open for comments.

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[1] <http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/2015/oclcresearch-archival-advantage-2015.html>, accessed 8 March 2016