Research Data Action Group at Warwick

Redefining Engagement – The Mercian Collaboration Conference 2022

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Who am I?

- The University's Research Data Officer at the Library

- Provide support to university members in **planning**, **managing** and **preserving** their **research data** in the light of the **University** and **funding body policies** and to advise on all aspects of **open research data** (including its reuse)

- Before the above role, PhD and researcher in Engineering at Warwick (WMG) specialised in lightweight automotive

The Library, photo taken in February 2018 [@ishwarkapoor]

- ❑ IT Services
- ❑ E-repositories

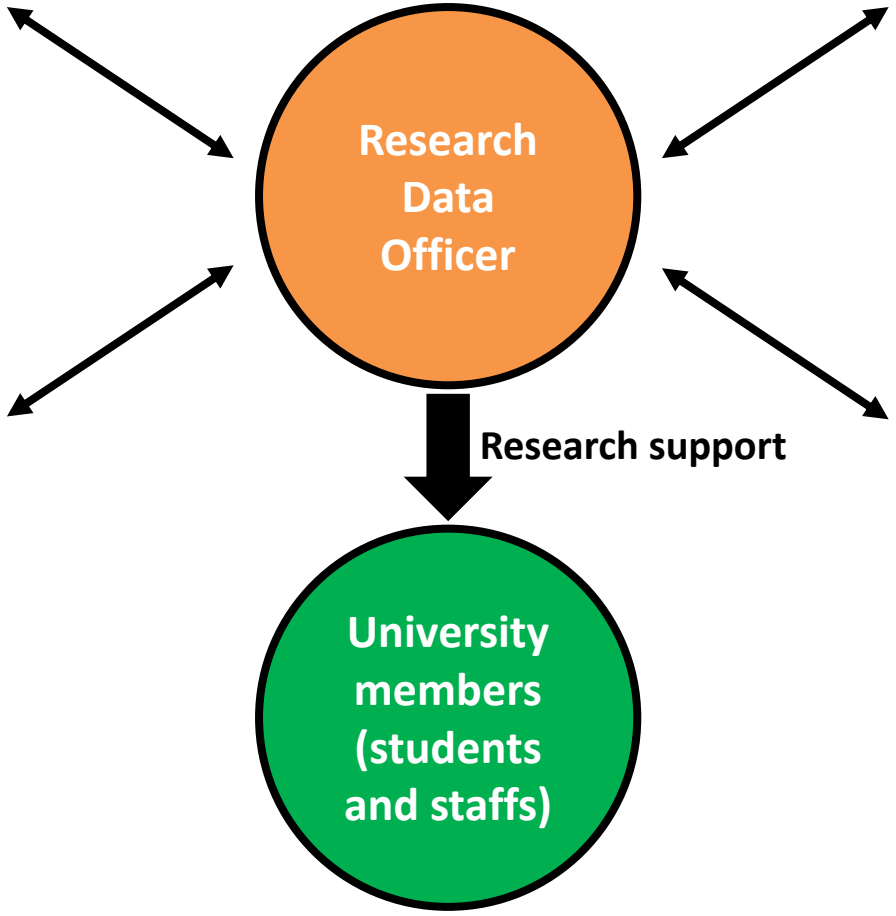
- Data sharing and storing options
- WRAP development
- Software procurement

- ❑ Organisational Development
- ❑ Doctoral College
- ❑ Student Opportunity: Skills
- ❑ Academic Departments such as Big Ws (WMG, WBS, WMS)
- ❑ Academic Support Librarians
- ❑ Modern Records Centre (MRC)
- ❑ Community Engagement

- Students and RAS research data support requirements

- ❑ Security and Information Management
- ❑ Legal and Compliance Services

- Data Protection, GDPR
- IPR, Copyright
- Data Retention policy



- ❑ Research & Impact Services

- Research ethics
- Data Management Plan
- Funder requirements

- ❑ Governance

- Secretary of Open Research Group
- Promote awareness of Open Research
- Understanding of Open Research issues
- Recommendations to Research committee on policy, services and requirements such as Research Data Road Map, Block Grants etc.

EUTOPIA Alliance – RDM

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Outline

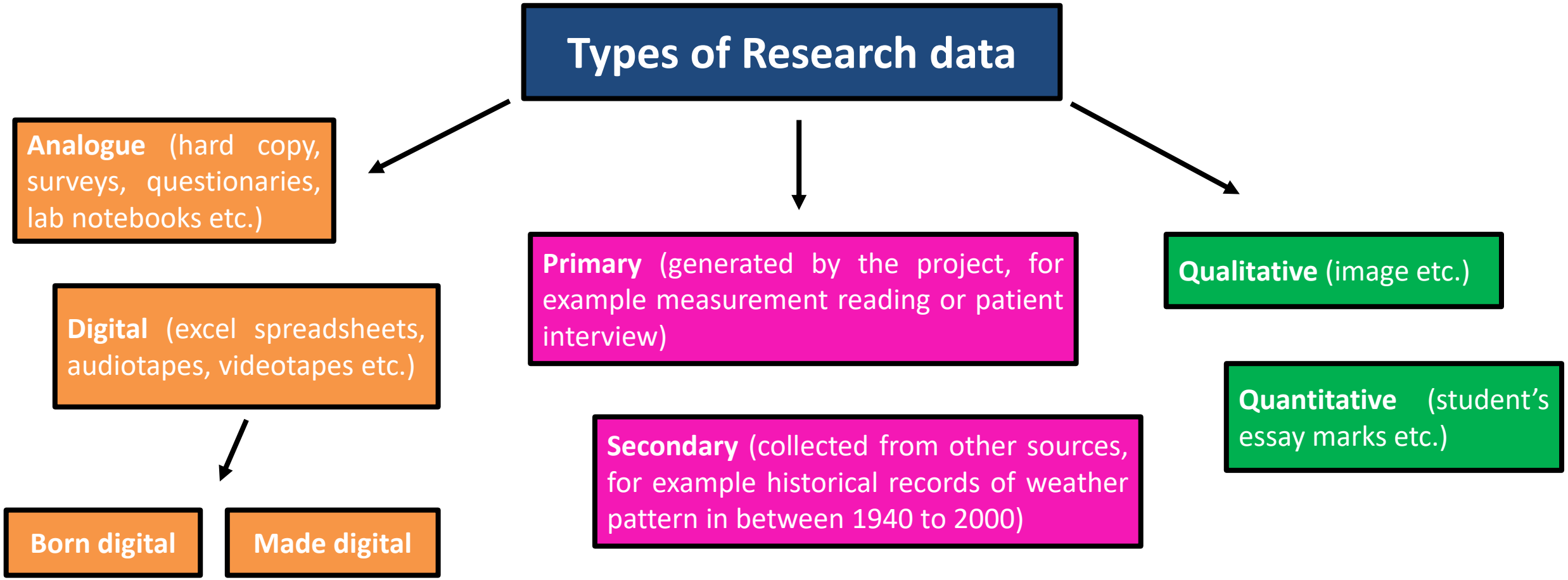
- Introduction to Research Data
- Introduction to Research Data Action Group
- Milestones

Please make this session as interactive as you wish.

Introduction to Research Data

Research Data?

The smallest building blocks of research, created, observed or collected for analysis to test a research hypothesis



Research Data Management (RDM)?

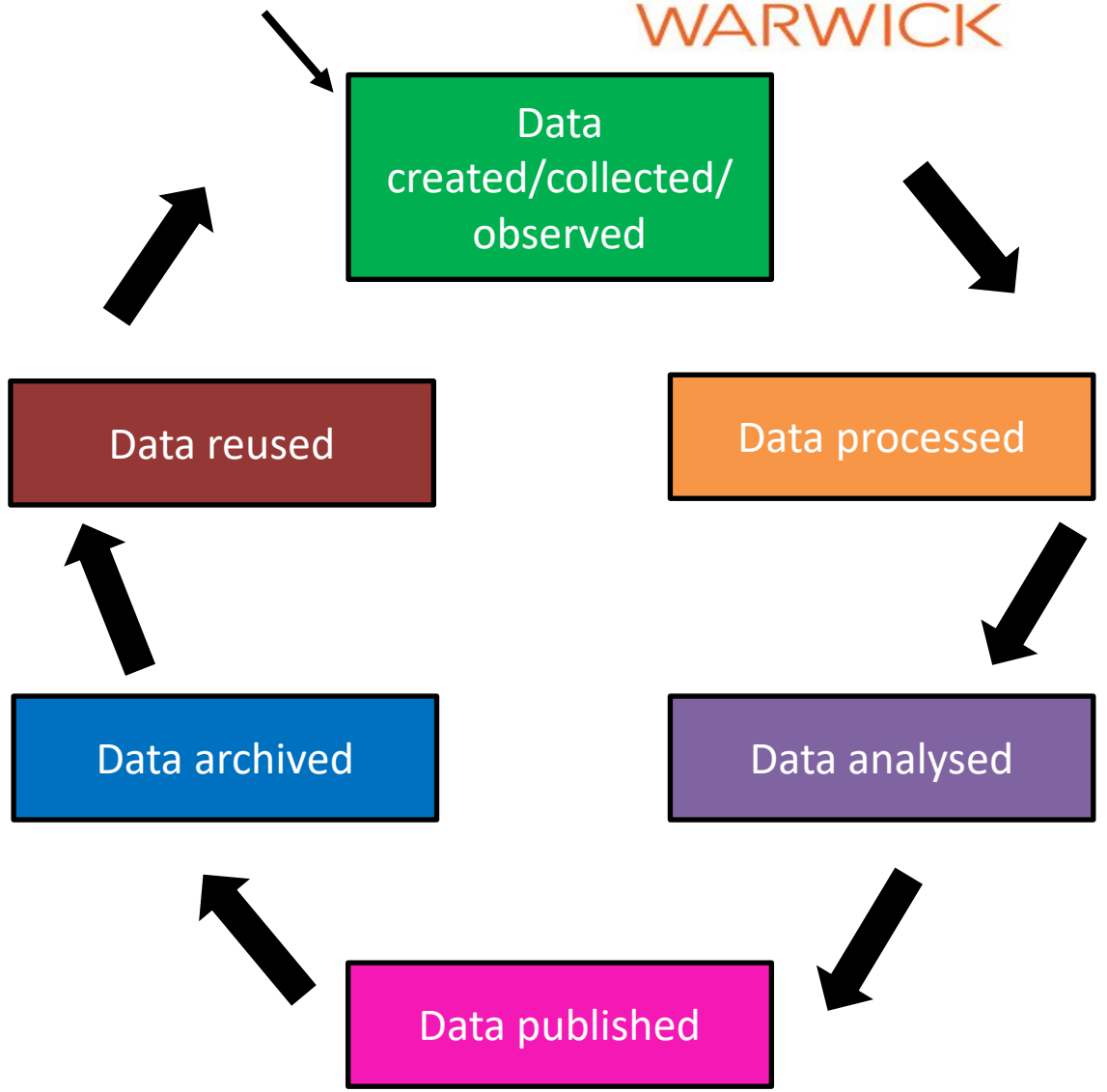
- Research data management (RDM) means the storage, curation, preservation and provision of continuing access to analogue and digital research data
- Easier to conduct research

RDM includes activities such as…

- creating backups of your work and controlling who has access to them
- choosing file formats that can be opened easily in the future
- describing methodology and keeping track of versions of files

Research Data Lifecycle

- Where are you?
- What questions need to be thought about at each stage?
- Data creation - What data will you produce?
- Data processing and analysis - How will you look after your data once it has been created/gathered?
- Data preservation and access - Can you/others understand the data?
- Data reuse - Who owns the data? Where will the final data be stored?



Credits Data management plans, The Library, The University of Warwick, UK

RDM: Current risks and challenges

- **Compliance**. UKRI funders expect HEI to be monitoring against their policies. Threat of **withdrawal of funding** – potentially at institutional level - if a funded researcher is non-compliant with a specific policy. **Currently very difficult to assess.**
- **Data loss**. Research data at risk if not suitably secured.
- **Data leakage**. Inadequate planning could lead to **IPR risk, GDPR fines and reputational loss**.
- **Research validation**. Reputational risks if papers have to be retracted due to lack of data.
- Funding opportunities missed due to poor or **inadequate Data Management Plans**.
- Incomplete knowledge by institution of a key asset. **Size, location and nature of research data currently held by the University is difficult to identify or quantify**.
- Wasted **researcher time and effort** in inefficient data handling systems, data re-creation and missed opportunities of data re-use.

Introduction to Research Data Action Group (RDAG)

Research Data Action Group (RDAG): Who are we?

The members of RDAG are from different **administrative/academic services specialised in data support** to students and staffs across the University:

- The Library (Scholarly Communications and Modern Records Centre)
- Information and Digital Group (IDG)/IT Services (ITS)
- Research & Impact Services (R&IS)
- Security and Information Management (SIM)
- Academic Departments/ Research Technology Platforms (RTPs)

RDAG: Aims

Ensure researchers are suitably informed and resourced to:

- Enable RDM best practice
- Safeguard research integrity
- Meet funder requirements
- Information security expectations

Milestones

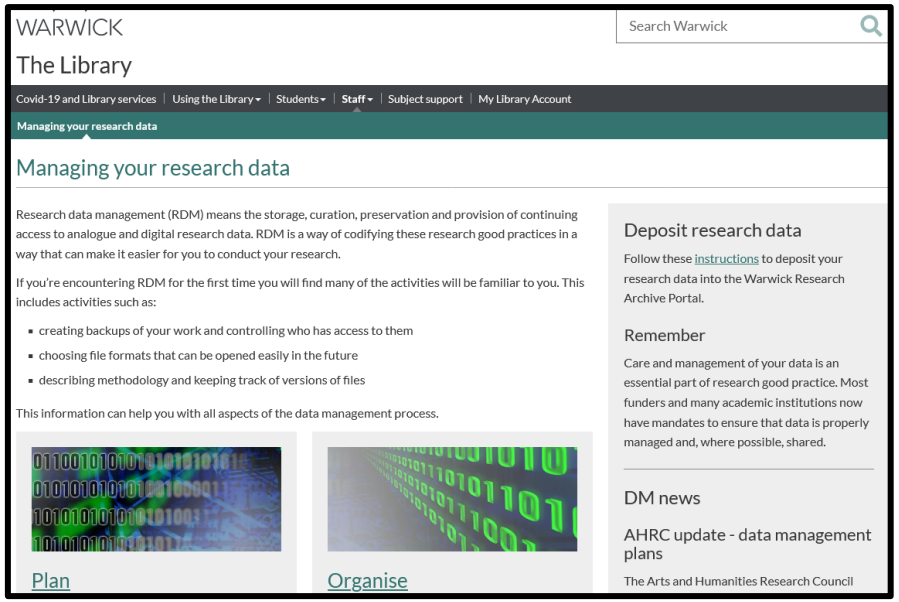
RDM: University of Warwick Roadmap (2022 - 2026)

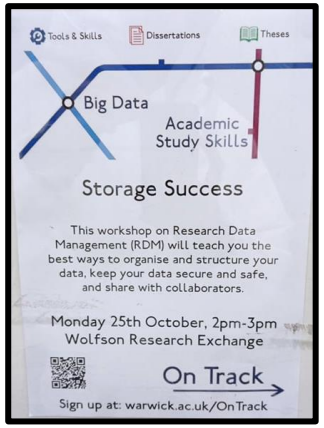
The RDAG has **collaboratively worked on the 6 sub-groups of the RDM Roadmap (2022 – 2026)** to put forward the **RDM Roadmap objectives into action**:

- The University/funder policy
- Data management planning
- Skills training & consultancy,
- Data infrastructures
- Data submission/cataloguing
- Publishing and digital preservation

RDM: Where are we?

At Warwick, basic Research data management (RDM) systems are in place: policy, repository, basic training, basic advocacy





As a member of the University's Research Ethics Committees

Researchers RDM awareness falls into three categories

- Researchers are **aware of the best practices** of RDM and have **followed proper guidelines** while preparing the RDM section of their ethics application

- Researchers have a good basic awareness of research data good practice but have not had to engage with research data management in a formal way, such as through the production of a DMP for a funder. There may be **some missing information on the RDM section** of their ethics application, including **data file type and size, data retention periods** etc. These researchers would benefit from a short discussion with the Research Data Team to guide them through the various data requirements. This is the most common group.

- Researchers may **have missed significant information about research data on the RDM section** of their ethics application or not followed RDM guidelines. This might include, for example, the usage of **unauthorised software or cloud services for analysis of research data** (especially where personal data or special category data is involved) or **lack of clarity about the methodology for data collection and analysis behind collection and analysis**. The practices of this group pose the greatest risk to the University and these researchers should be referred to the Research Data service for training and discussion about their projects.

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https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/staff/research-data/safepod

Any questions?

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http://warwick.ac.uk/lib-researchers/research-data/