About us

- Research360 is an 18-month JISC-funded project to pilot technical and human infrastructure for research data management at the University of Bath

- Jez Cope has a background in computer science, and provides support and training in technology to research staff and students

- Cathy Pink has a PhD in bioinformatics, and advises researchers in the management and reuse of research data
What is research data?

"Research data … is collected, observed, or created, for purposes of analysis to produce original research results."

— Information Services, University of Edinburgh

"Providing an authoritative definition of research data is challenging, as any definition is likely to depend on the context in which the question is asked."

— Australian National Data Service
What is research data?

"Data are **facts, observations or experiences** on which an argument, theory or test is based. … Data includes: laboratory notebooks; field notebooks; primary research data (including research data in hardcopy or in computer readable form); questionnaires; audiotapes; videotapes; models; photographs; films; test responses. Research collections may include slides; artefacts; specimens; samples. … The **software code** used to generate, annotate or analyse the data may also be included."

— *University of Melbourne*
Why is this important?

"Publicly funded research data are a public good, produced in the public interest, which should be made openly available with as few restrictions as possible in a timely and responsible manner that does not harm intellectual property."

— RCUK Common Principles on Data Policy
What can students learn?

- Experimental design eg. sampling, methodologies
- Analytical/statistical techniques
- Ethical/data protection considerations
Where can I get my hands on some data?

- Figshare
- Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS)
  [http://esds.ac.uk/](http://esds.ac.uk/)
- DataCite search
  [http://search.datacite.org/](http://search.datacite.org/)
- British Library Catalogue
  [http://catalogue.bl.uk/](http://catalogue.bl.uk/)
  - Go to "Advanced Search" and select "Research Datasets" under "Material Type"
- Disciplinary databases (there are hundreds)
What should I be aware of?

- Where has the data come from?
  - How trustworthy is it?
  - Is that important for your teaching?
- What license applies?
  - Creative Commons licenses are common, but not universal
  - Can it be placed on your own website or VLE?
- Can it be properly interpreted?
  - Is there enough contextual information?
Over to you...

- Take a look at the datasets on the handouts
  - This will be easier with a laptop!
- Talk over the prompts in your groups
- We'll discuss what you found at the end of the session

Digital handouts:
Over to you

Exercise 1:
http://bit.ly/Qy9EYw

Exercise 2:
Thanks for your time!

These slides and worksheets available via ALT-C 2012 CrowdVine

http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/research360

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Notes on the questions