Technology training for PG students
Research data management and social media

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Oxford Open Science meeting
*Wednesday 14 August 2012*
Introduction
Who am I?
Centre for Sustainable Chemical Technologies
Research360 project

Connected Researcher @ Bath
What we did
What we found

Research data management
What we did
What we found

Conclusions
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4 Conclusions
Who am I?

- Computer scientist & mathematician by training;
- Brief flirtation with computational systems biology;
- At University of Bath:
  - ICT Project Manager, CSCT;
  - Technical Data Co-ordinator, Research360 project;
Centre for Sustainable Chemical Technologies

bath.ac.uk/csct

- Cross-disciplinary research centre;
- Develop new molecules, materials and processes for sustainability;
- EPSRC-funded Doctoral Training Centre.
Research360 project

blogs.bath.ac.uk/research360

- JISC-funded 18 month project;
- Develop human & technical infrastructure for research data management;
- Institutional drivers:
  - Business continuity;
  - Openness & research integrity;
  - EPSRC expectations;
  - RCUK common principles.
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Social media for researchs

- Attract collaborators;
- Attract funding (private/public);
- Attract PhD students;
- Get more citations;
- Debate & share ideas with peers;
- Influence policy;
- Knowledge transfer;
- Engage with the public.
Connected Researcher @ Bath

- Aim: To support social media use by researchers;
- Entirely grass-roots;
- Mixture of events:
  - Seminars with invited speakers;
  - Panel sessions;
  - Hands-on workshops.
Experiences

• Workshops well attended;
  • Mostly students, but a few staff too;
• Hands-on workshops were popular;
• Need to make clear:
  • Why social tools are useful;
  • How to use them to produce *useful results*.
Going forward

• Well received inside & outside the university;
• Taken up by Researcher Development Unit and Web Services.
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Research Data Management Workshops

- Workshops for PG research students;
- Practical, effective strategies for data management;
- Treatment of the *whole* research lifecycle.
Research Data Management Workshops

- Two workshops so far;
- DTC students (all chemists/chemical engineers):
  - Introduction led by DTC Director (an academic);
  - Hands-on data management planning;
- PGskills (University-wide PGR training)
  - Shorter, less hands-on;

blogs.bath.ac.uk/research360/category/training/
Attitudes

- Good awareness of the issues…
- …but poor level of implementation;
- Supportive of the idea of openness…
- …but it’s a low priority.
Feedback

- Satisfaction:
  - 95% of participants were satisfied with the course;
  - 91% would recommend the course to others;
  - 95% found it relevant to their needs.

- Intended follow-up:
  - ”Prepare a management plan”; and
  - ”Back up my data”
Improvements

- Dropbox & the cloud;
- Engage staff better;
- Include data-type-/discipline-specific examples.
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Conclusions

- Postgraduate researchers are:
  - Aware of the potential of technology;
  - Wary of the perceived risks;
  - Very strategic about how they use their time;
  - Open to learning new stuff;

- PGRs are influenced by their supervisors…
- …but often influence them right back;
Conclusions

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• PGRs are influenced by their supervisors…

• …but often influence them right back;
That’s all, folks

Any questions?
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