Research Data Management Policy: March 2015

Introduction

In 2011, Research Councils UK (RCUK) adopted seven common principles to provide an underpinning for individual Council policies on research data. The guiding principle for this development is that:

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.

Additional principles cover issues such as: data and metadata standards; protection of sensitive data; protection of the right of first use (via embargo periods) and the right of recognition for the original dataset creator; and the appropriateness of the use of public funding to support the management and sharing of publicly-funded research data.¹

Policy

The University of Huddersfield recognises that research data are a public good and that access should not be restricted unless there are clear legal, ethical or commercial constraints.

1. Research data will be managed to the highest standards throughout the research data lifecycle as part of our commitment to research excellence with impact as expressed in the University Research Strategy 2011-2020.

2. Responsibility for research data management through a sound research data management plan during any research project or programme lies primarily with Principal Investigators (PIs).

3. All new Research Council funded research proposals must include research data management plans or protocols that explicitly address data capture, management, integrity, confidentiality, retention, sharing and publication.

4. The University will provide training, support, advice and where appropriate guidelines and templates for the research data management and research data management plans based on recognised standards.

5. The University will provide mechanisms and services for storage, backup, registration, deposit and retention of research data assets in support of current and future access, during and after completion of research projects.

6. Any data which is retained elsewhere, for example in an international data service or repository should be registered with the University.

7. Research data management plans must ensure that in a timely manner research data are available for access and re-use where appropriate and under appropriate safeguards.

8. The legitimate interests of the subjects of research data must be protected.

9. Research data of future historical interest, and all research data that represent records of the University, including data that substantiate research findings, will be offered and assessed for deposit and retention in an appropriate national or international data service or domain repository, or a University repository.
10. Exclusive rights to reuse or publish research data should not be handed over to commercial publishers or agents without retaining the rights to make the data openly available for re-use, unless this is a condition of funding.

11. Published results should include information on how to access the supporting data.

12. All research data should be discoverable for effective re-use by others and therefore sufficient metadata should be recorded and made openly available to enable other researchers to understand the research and re-use potential of the data.

¹ http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/datapolicy/