

Identifying & Implementing Relevant Research Data Management (RDM) Services for the Library at the University of Dodoma, Tanzania



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Map of Tanzania and UDOM location



University of Dodoma (UDOM)



Established in
2007

Designed on a
seven campus
college mode

Offers 173
programmes

Overview

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Introduction – Why RDM?

- Literature provides many reasons for RDM.
- The bottom line: Money talks.
- International research funding agencies and national government **require** that grant beneficiaries preserve, share and make data accessible for re-use.
- Example in Africa is the National Research Foundation (NRF) in South Africa
- To date very few African institutions have implemented RDM services.

Study Objective

The core objective of this study was to, for the library, **identify the RDM services** that have to be designed and developed so that the librarians could assist the University's researchers to make their **data accessible** to the national and international community.

Patel's 3 Tier Framework for RDM

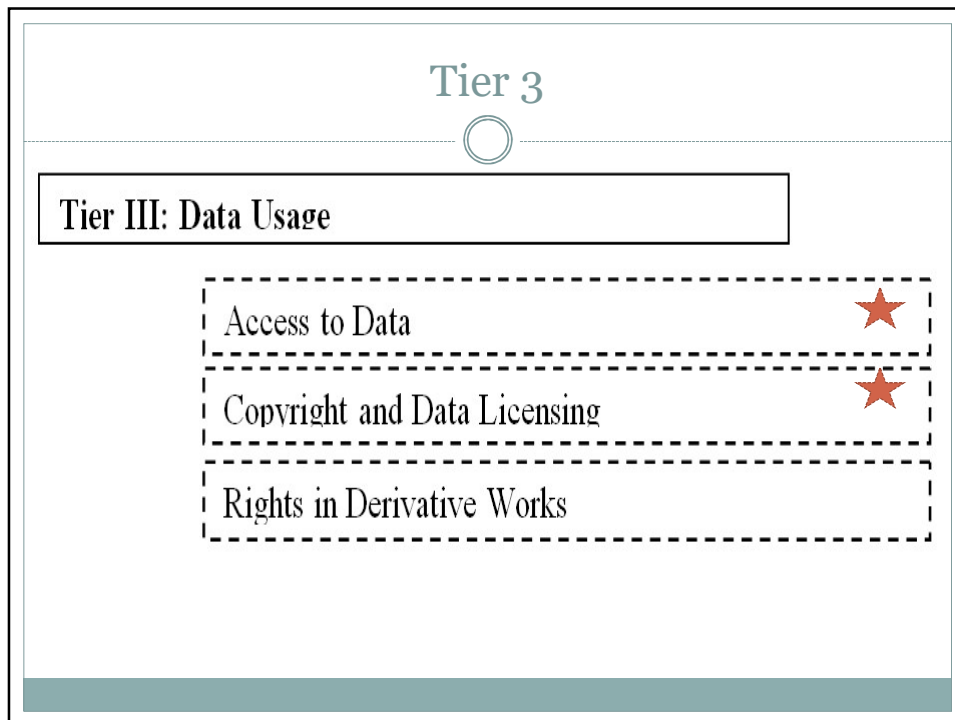
Tier I: Data Management

- Developing Institutional Policy for Data Sharing ★
- Changing Mindset of Researchers ★
- Copyright and data licensing ★
- Cross Refer Data to Methodology
- Data Classification
- Data Anonymisation
- Data Description and Identification
- Data Organization
- Interoperability framework for data

Tier 2

Tier II: Data Storage and Hosting

- Selection of File Formats ★
- Data Generated by Public-Private Collaborations
- Data Hosting Service ★
- Independent Data Distributors
- Liability for Hosted Data
- Data Security
- Data Hosting Software
- Data Backup



Sustainability of RDM services

- To most institutions, RDM represents a completely new enterprise that brings both organisational and behavioural changes.
- RDM implementation project is nothing without its sustainability plan. RDM appears to be costly and requires **proper determination** of its actual **costs and expenditures**.
- Creating and accepting a **long-term business plan** for RDM surfaces the resources (people, infrastructure and funding) needed.
- This study identified three elements that could help the library sustain its planned RDM services at the University of Dodoma

Sust...



This include:

- **RDM policy**; A comprehensive RDM policy should clearly identify the responsibilities of each stakeholder and make the project as part of normal university activities.
- Continue **support and training** to stakeholders and
- Provision of required **resources and facilities**.

Methodology



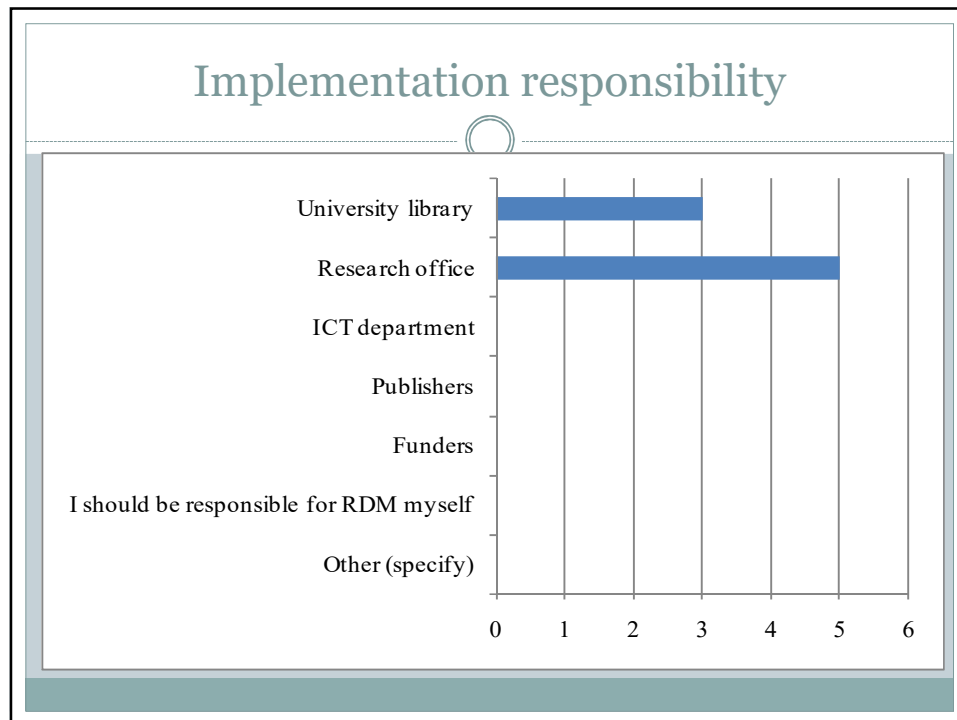
- **Case study** with a survey.
- **Purposive sampling** (two university managers)
- **Snowball sampling technique** (postgraduate students and researchers).
- Study population **14**
 - 6 postgraduate students,
 - 6 researchers and
 - 2 university managers.
- **Case:** The University of Dodoma.

Data collection and analysis

- **Online questionnaire** (Google forms) used by postgraduate students and researchers.
- **Semi-structured interviews** - University managers.
- **Data - Thematically analysed**
- **Major themes** were linked to the **objective** of the study.

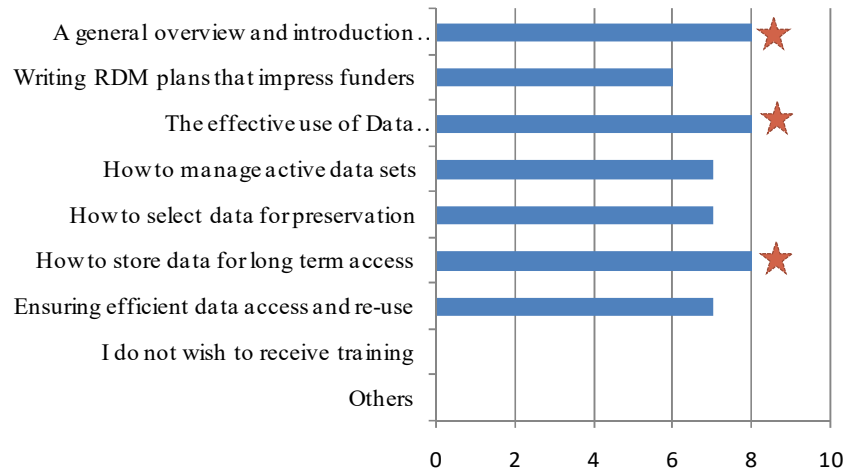
Most Important Findings

- The study indicated **low awareness** of the RDM practices by researchers and other stakeholders.
- It was **established** that researchers and postgraduate students at the University of Dodoma were not applying RDM practices particularly the use of DMP tools. Neither were external forces such as research funding agencies or government mandating the use of DMP tools.



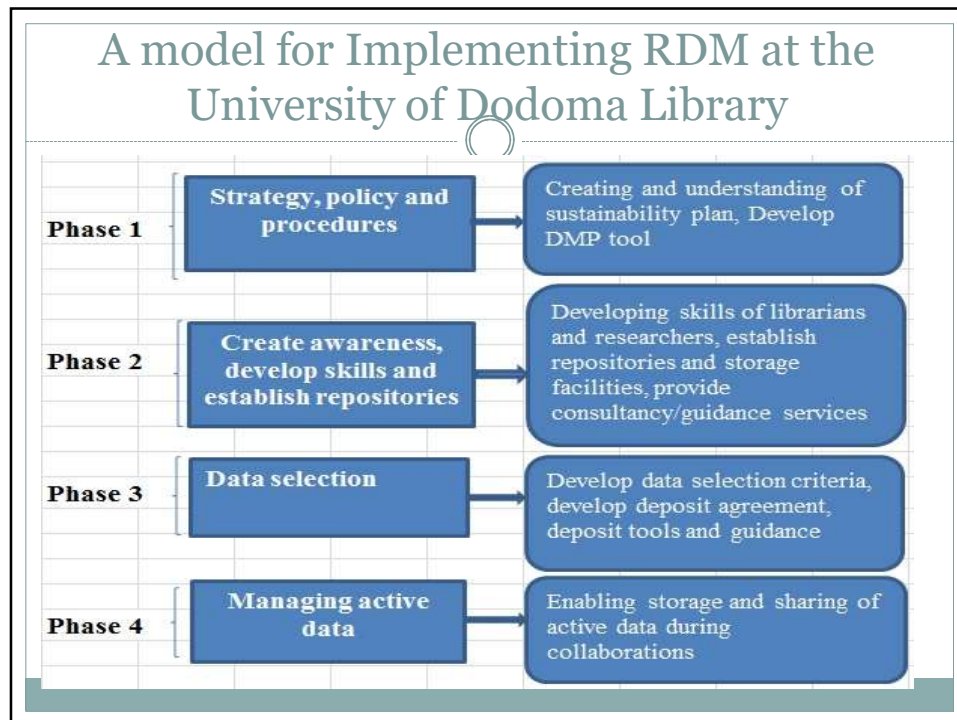
- ### Required Library services
- A guide on the use of a data management plan.
 - Training in good RDM practices.
 - A well-developed RDM policy.
 - A trusted data repository,
 - A guideline for data appraisal – selecting data for long term preservation.

What training did they ask for?



Recommendation: RDM Implementation Phases

- Everything cannot be done simultaneously.
- Four implementation phases identified:
 - Strategy, policy, and procedures;
 - Creating RDM awareness, developing skills and establishing repositories;
 - Data selection for retention, and
 - Managing active data.
- Phases will in all probability overlap.



Phase 1 - Strategy, policy and procedures

- This phase lays down the foundation and research data management infrastructure in the context of the university.
- Library involvement through participation in
 - Developing policy,
 - Identifying a DMP tool,
 - Giving input into strategic plans for:
 - ✦ RDM sustainability, and
 - ✦ Infrastructures requirements.

Phase 2 - Creating RDM awareness, developing skills and establishing repositories

- Creating awareness throughout the university.
- Focus on the benefits of RDM practices for
 - Researchers,
 - Librarians, and
 - University management.
- Expand and conduct a training **needs assessment**.
- Providing support through **training and consultation services**.
- **Developing repositories**, and
- Creating **metadata for the research data**

Phase 3 - Data selection for retention

- The phase addresses **data selection criteria** as to which data should be submitted for retention.
- It is important to prioritise data for long-term preservations – not all data should be preserved.
- The phase also addresses the **deposit agreement, deposit tools, and guidance**.

Phase 4 - Managing active data

- The main focus in this phase is to manage active data – that data which is still being analysed and manipulated (the active stage of research).
- Includes ensuring sufficient **data storage**.
- Establishing a facility capable of enabling researchers to store, access, and share their research data during **collaborations with dispersed project team members**.

Going forward

- The RDM project was introduced at a **Library Board Meeting** which is the starting point for any project to be accepted by the top management.
- Library Board recommended that the library should first create awareness to stakeholders including board members to allow informed decisions.
- The subject is included in the information literacy program for postgraduate students and researchers.
- It may take some time for actual implementation.

Conclusion

- **For the library to sustain its RDM services:**
 1. Collaboration with key stakeholders – being part of the planning
 2. Trained staff – expertise in supporting RDM
 3. Good quality training content
- The library has started with phase 2 of our project and are working to subscribe and customize DMP tool developed by DCC
- We look forward to implement phase 3 and 4 after developing strategy, policy and procedures (Phase 1)

Preprint-Research Gate

Preprint
File available
Feedback requested

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Project: [Implementing Research Data Management services at the University Library](#)

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Research Interest 🔍 1.8

Citations 0

Recommendations 👍 0

Reads 📖 36

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Overview

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Stats overview

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