Are you a University of Oxford humanities researcher?

Would you like the opportunity to learn more about best practice in research data management?

We are currently seeking a group of humanities researchers to participate in a **Research Data Management Mentoring Programme**.

The way that research data is handled, cared for, and preserved has become an increasingly high profile issue in academic circles in recent years. Many major funders now require data management plans as part of grant applications (e.g. the AHRC's technical plan), and may also mandate that researchers share their data publicly at the end of a project. In 2012, the University of Oxford adopted a formal [Policy on the Management of Research Data and Records](#).

The RDM Mentoring Programme aims to offer ongoing support in this area for Oxford University researchers. A personalized approach allows guidance to be tailored to meet the needs of a specific research project.

The programme is open to both lone researchers and those working as part of a team. 'Data' is interpreted broadly: it covers both structured data (the sort that might be stored in tables or databases) and unstructured (including – but not limited to – textual resources, images, and multimedia items).

Programme activities

The programme has two main elements. First, to establish fruitful relationships between researchers and research data management support staff. This might typically involve any or all of:

- An initial face-to-face consultation
- Advice and feedback on data management plans
- Ongoing advice via email, with the option of arranging further face-to-face meetings if desired
- Annual review meetings, with an opportunity to revisit and (if necessary) revise the data management plan

Secondly, to bring researchers together to share knowledge and experience, as a first step towards building a community of practice, including activities such as:

- Seminars or other group events, where researchers can share both their challenges and the strategies they find useful
- Discussion boards
- Peer evaluation of draft data management plans, documentation, etc.

A pilot version of this programme launched earlier in 2014, focusing on social science researchers. This phase extends it to include humanities; we hope that it will ultimately be possible to cover all academic disciplines. The programme is coordinated by staff from the [IT Services Research Support Team](#) and the [Bodleian Libraries](#).

Researchers interested in participating should email researchdata@ox.ac.uk, by 3rd November 2014.