Update Report

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Title of Project: Service Oriented Toolkit for Research Data Management   **Project Reference: RDTK**

Project Lead: David Ford   **Project Manager: Bill Worthington**

Overall timescale of project : Oct 2011 – Mar 2013

Summary of progress at end of Month 2 (of 18):

Bill Worthington (BW) was deployed from within Information Hertfordshire to manage the project.

The effort in the first two months of the project has been directed at:

- project planning and recruitment (workpackage WP12);
- UH stakeholder/researcher/DCC engagement (workpackage WP1)
- technical capacity investigations (workpackage WP2 & WP3)
- programme engagement (workpackage WP11);

Milestone M1 was encountered at the end of Month 1, whereupon Deliverable D1 (The Project Plan) became due. D1 was delivered on 3 November 2011.

In addition, Deliverable D2 (The Project Website) was made available on 16 October 2011. The website is the main dissemination channel for the project and JISC's preferred mechanism for monthly reporting. Two monthly progress reports and 7 other articles have been posted. (see http://research-data-toolkit.herts.ac.uk)

The project manager believes the project is making good progress.

Risk Factors/ Pressing issues

Recruitment of two further project staff is underway. If this is not successful early in the 2012, the initial momentum will be lost.

Next Key Milestones

End of March 2012: 6 month programme review, conclusion of Research Data Management (RDM) audit (workpackage WP1), evaluation of first pilot service deployments (workpackages WP2 & WP3)

Activity/Outputs

WP1 RDM Audit

We have agreed a plan with Andrew McHugh of the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) to carry out a Cardio Assessment with key UH stakeholders, followed by a Data Asset Framework (DAF) exercise with one of our large research groups in Health and Human Sciences. The purpose is two fold: to conduct a first pass RDM audit; and to skill UH staff to conduct best practice audits going forward.

Cathy Tong and BW have engaged in discussion with UH researchers from Health and Human Sciences, History, and Physics with regard to taking part in pilot studies in workpackages WP2, WP3, WP4, and WP5.

WP2 & WP3 Pilot Services

BW has engaged with many internal and external contacts with regard to pilot services deployment. These include Graham Brown (UH, re: document management); Gaye Fulton (Herts Regional Consortium, re: cloud storage, document management and database as a service); James Wilson (Oxford University Computing Service, re: database as a service). In addition all the JISC UMF (University Modernisation Fund) Cloud Services projects were approached at the recent Programme Launch Meeting.

Three research projects, including two clinical trials, have been identified from within the Centre for Lifespan and Chronic Illness Research and the Centre for Research in Primary and Community Care. Between them they have requirements for document management and archive; database hosting (mysql); and working data storage and long term data curation. The three principal investigators involved, David Wellsted, Kirsten Rennie and Karin Friedli, are enthusiastic and committed to the project.

WP11 Programme Engagement

BW has participated in

- Research Data Management Forum 7, University of Warwick, 2 days

- Digital Curation Centre Roadshow, University of Cambridge, 3 days

- Virtual Infrastructure with Database as a Service, University of Oxford, 0.5 day

- JISCMRD programme Launch Meeting, National College School Leadership, Nottingham, 2 days (with David Ford)

Blog posts reporting on all these events can be found on the project website. The site has received nearly 600 page views in 400 visits in the 30 days to 5 December. (Local usage from within UH is not included in these stats.)

Additional programme engagement/dissemination:

- announcements via twitter (#rdtk_herts, #jiscmrd) and jiscmrd@jiscmail mailing list

- updates to the 'programme commonalities' shared document

- SWORD dataset exchange protocol survey

WP12 Project Management

The project plan and supporting documents have been submitted to the JISC and Steering Group for consideration.