



TARTU ÜLIKOOL



Future-Proofing Research Data Management: How Industry Strategies Can Strengthen Research Data Governance

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Who am I?



University of Tartu,
Estonia
Genetic Engineer, MSc



Research Data Management
trainer



Member of RDM networks:

- Estonian
- 3 international (ELIXIR, RDA, Nordic)
- following in 2 other national ones





FAIR
Open Science
Public good



Two different worlds?

Analytics
Return On Investment
Competitive Advantage
Data-Driven Decisions

Shared struggle

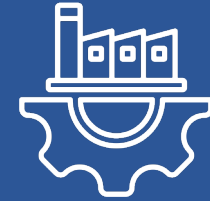


Metadata is **GOLD**



Humans dislike writing documentation

Shared struggle



Metadata is **GOLD**



Humans dislike writing documentation

Framework for both: Data Governance.



Provenance

Manual PIDs

External mandates

(National Open Science guidelines, EU laws)

**PI, data controller,
data processor**

Lost in translation



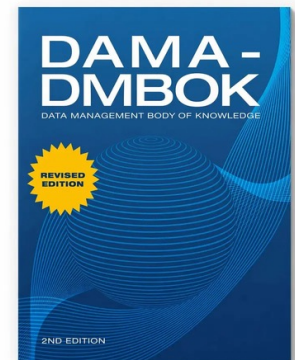
Lineage

Automated tracking

Operational playbooks

[DAMA-DMBOK](#)

Data owner



Data as an asset

Industry builds (Meta)Data
Catalogs.

Universities?

**Most universities have no
central map of their research
data assets.**

**University
Blind spot**





If research data is our primary output,
we must know what we have

Borrowing from Industry: Data Catalogue



**Treat Research Data like Institutional Assets:
Institutional metadata cataloging, even if the
data itself remains distributed.**

Example:

Germany: Currently building the NFDI (Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur), a massive national project to create linked data catalogs across all disciplines.

Working group: Search and harvesting

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6770763>

Borrowing from Industry: Ownership



**Define Ownership Beyond the PI:
Establish institutional data stewardship protocols so data
survives beyond a single grant lifecycle.**

Examples:

- Offboarding workflows
 - University of Basel- [Project end and off-boarding](#)
 - KU Leuven - [Checklist for Research Data Handover at end of PhD](#)
 - University of Wisconsin–Madison - [Research Data Management Offboarding Checklist](#)
 - Penn State University - [Checklist for Departing Researchers](#)
 - Duke University- [Researcher offboarding procedures](#)
- Data Vault for orphan data - [Universities of Edinburgh and Manchester](#)

Borrowing from Industry: Data Governance Policy

Adopt DMBOK Principles: Stop treating RDM just as an Open Science compliance chore chore and start treating it as operational data governance.

Examples:

- University of London- [Data Governance Policy](#)
 - Relates to both corporate and research data
- University of St Andrews - [Data Governance Policy](#)
 - Scope: Finalized data for preservation and open access.
 - Exclusion: Active research data.
 - Governance: Researcher-owned; University-supported.



**Research data is the
university's greatest asset.**

**It's time we governed it like
one**





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Thank you!



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