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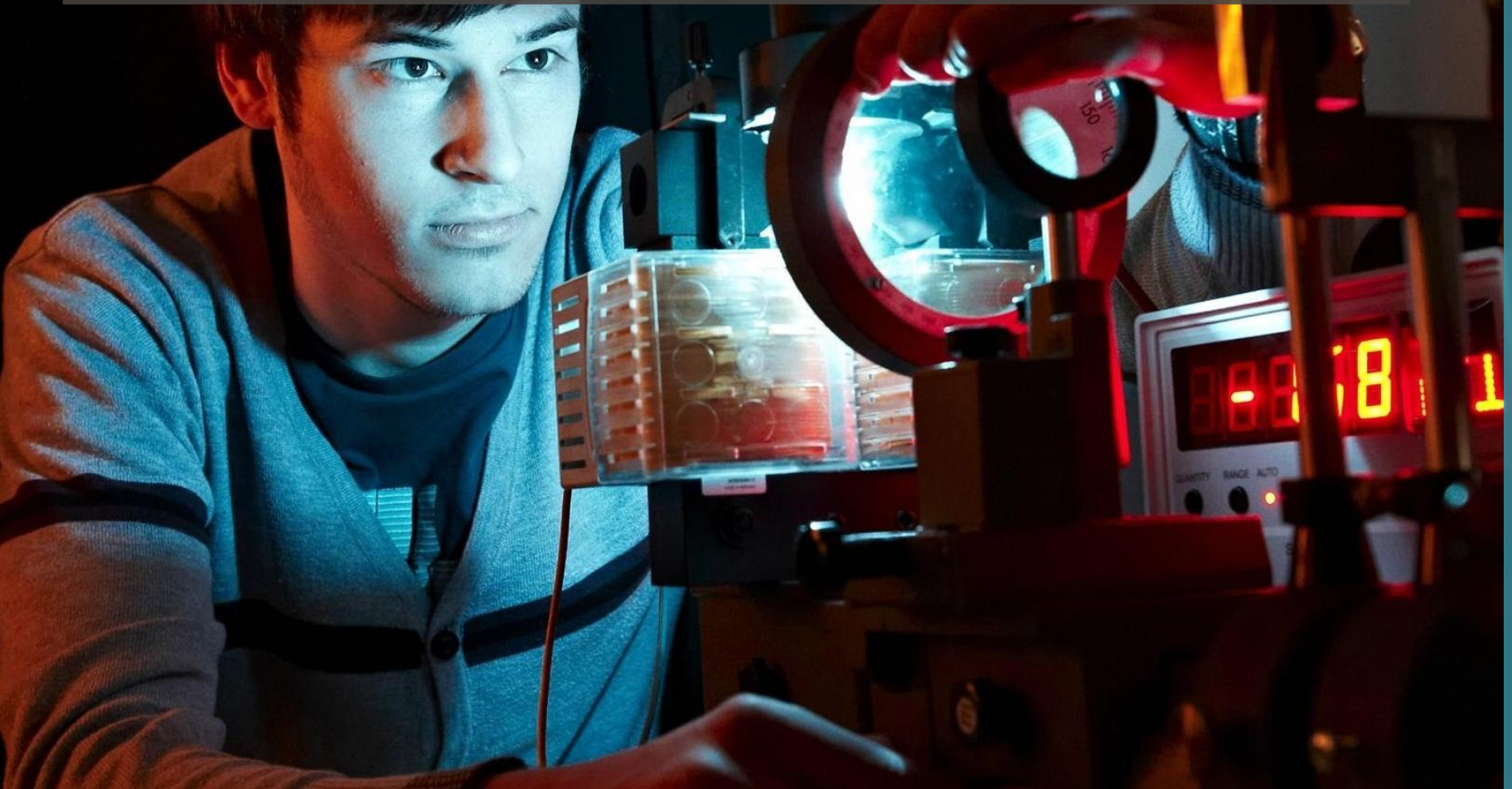
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Exploiting research data for teaching

Jez Cope & Cathy Pink, University of Bath



About us

- Research360 is an 18-month JISC-funded project to pilot technical and human infrastructure for research data management at the University of Bath
- Jez Cope has a background in computer science, and provides support and training in technology to research staff and students
- Cathy Pink has a PhD in bioinformatics, and advises researchers in the management and reuse of research data

What is research data?

"Research data ... is collected, observed, or created, for purposes of analysis to produce original research results."

— [Information Services, University of Edinburgh](#)

"Providing an authoritative definition of research data is challenging, as any definition is likely to depend on the context in which the question is asked."

— [Australian National Data Service](#)

What is research data?

"Data are **facts, observations or experiences** on which an argument, theory or test is based. ... Data includes: **laboratory notebooks; field notebooks; primary research data** (including research data in hardcopy or in computer readable form); **questionnaires; audiotapes; videotapes; models; photographs; films; test responses**. Research collections may include slides; artefacts; specimens; samples. ... The **software code** used to generate, annotate or analyse the data may also be included."

— [University of Melbourne](#)

Why is this important?

"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."

— *RCUK Common Principles on Data Policy*

What can students learn?

- Experimental design eg. sampling, methodologies
- Analytical/statistical techniques
- Ethical/data protection considerations

Where can I get my hands on some data?

- Figshare
<http://figshare.com/>
- Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS)
<http://esds.ac.uk/>
- DataCite search
<http://search.datacite.org/>
- British Library Catalogue
<http://catalogue.bl.uk/>
 - Go to "Advanced Search" and select "Research Datasets" under "Material Type"
- Disciplinary databases (there are hundreds)

What should I be aware of?

- Where has the data come from?
 - How trustworthy is it?
 - Is that important for your teaching?
- What license applies?
 - Creative Commons licenses are common, but not universal
 - Can it be placed on your own website or VLE?
- Can it be properly interpreted?
 - Is there enough contextual information?

Over to you...

- Take a look at the datasets on the handouts
 - This will be easier with a laptop!
- Talk over the prompts in your groups
- We'll discuss what you found at the end of the session

Digital handouts:

- Exercise 1: <http://bit.ly/Qy9EYw>
- Exercise 2: <http://bit.ly/UEMVbQ>

Over to you

Exercise 1:

<http://bit.ly/Qy9EYw>



Exercise 2:

<http://bit.ly/UEMVbQ>



Thanks for your time!

These slides and worksheets available
via ALT-C 2012 CrowdVine

<http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/research360>

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Jez: j.cope@bath.ac.uk (also [@jezcope](https://twitter.com/jezcope) on Twitter)

Notes on the questions

- Exercise 1: <http://bit.ly/RCgbB8>
- Exercise 2: <http://bit.ly/Nmavtt>