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# Technology training for PG students

## Research data management and social media

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Centre for Sustainable Chemical Technologies  
University of Bath

Oxford Open Science meeting  
*Wednesday 14 August 2012*

## 1 Introduction

Who am I?

Centre for Sustainable Chemical Technologies

Research360 project

## 2 Connected Researcher @ Bath

What we did

What we found

## 3 Research data management

What we did

What we found

## 4 Conclusions

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# Who am I?

- Computer scientist & mathematician by training;
- Brief flirtation with computational systems biology;
- At University of Bath:
  - ICT Project Manager, CSCT;
  - Technical Data Co-ordinator, Research360 project;



# Centre for Sustainable Chemical Technologies



[bath.ac.uk/csct](http://bath.ac.uk/csct)

- Cross-disciplinary research centre;
- Develop new molecules, materials and processes for sustainability;
- EPSRC-funded Doctoral Training Centre.

## Research360 project

`blogs.bath.ac.uk/research360`

- JISC-funded 18 month project;
- Develop human & technical infrastructure for research data management;
- Institutional drivers:
  - Business continuity;
  - Openness & research integrity;
  - EPSRC expectations;
  - RCUK common principles.

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## Social media for researchs

- Attract collaborators;
- Attract funding (private/public);
- Attract PhD students;
- Get more citations;
- Debate & share ideas with peers;
- Influence policy;
- Knowledge transfer;
- Engage with the public.

## Connected Researcher @ Bath

- Aim: To support social media use by researchers;
- Entirely grass-roots;
- Mixture of events:
  - Seminars with invited speakers;
  - Panel sessions;
  - Hands-on workshops.

# Experiences

- Workshops well attended;
  - Mostly students, but a few staff too;
- Hands-on workshops were popular;
- Need to make clear:
  - Why social tools are useful;
  - How to use them to produce *useful results*.

## Going forward

- Well received inside & outside the university;
- Taken up by Researcher Development Unit and Web Services.

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# Research Data Management Workshops

- Workshops for PG research students;
- Practical, effective strategies for data management;
- Treatment of the *whole* research lifecycle.

# Research Data Management Workshops

- Two workshops so far;
- DTC students (all chemists/chemical engineers):
  - Introduction led by DTC Director (an academic);
  - Hands-on data management planning;
- PGskills (University-wide PGR training)
  - Shorter, less hands-on;

[blogs.bath.ac.uk/research360/category/training/](https://blogs.bath.ac.uk/research360/category/training/)

# Attitudes

- Good awareness of the issues...
- ...but poor level of implementation;
- Supportive of the idea of openness...
- ...but it's a low priority.



# Feedback

- Satisfaction:
  - **95%** of participants were satisfied with the course;
  - **91%** would recommend the course to others;
  - **95%** found it relevant to their needs.
- Intended follow-up:
  - "Prepare a management plan"; and
  - "Back up my data"

# Improvements

- Dropbox & the cloud;
- Engage staff better;
- Include data-type-/discipline-specific examples.

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# Conclusions

- Postgraduate researchers are:
  - Aware of the potential of technology;
  - Wary of the perceived risks;
  - Very strategic about how they use their time;
  - Open to learning new stuff;
- PGRs are influenced by their supervisors...
- ...but often influence them right back;

# Conclusions

- Postgraduate researchers are:
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  - Wary of the perceived risks;
  - Very strategic about how they use their time;
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- ...but often influence them right back;

That's all, folks

Any questions?

That's all, folks

# Any questions?

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Blog	<code>erambler.co.uk</code>
Work stuff	<code>people.bath.ac.uk/jc619</code>
Twitter	<code>twitter.com/jezcope</code>
Google+	<code>gplus.to/jezcope</code>

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`github.com/jezcope/oxford-open-science-2012`

