

Research Data Management Support to EU-funded researchers at Université libre de Bruxelles

Dragana Petrovic

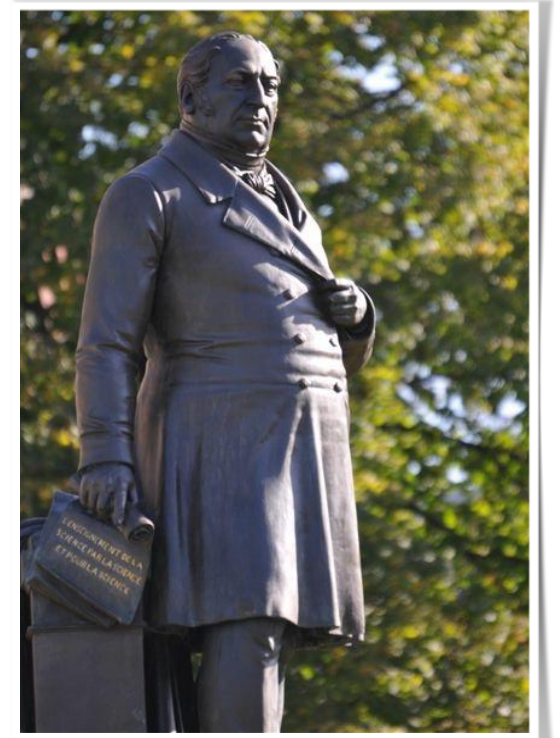
ULB European Liaison Office, Research Department

UNICA webinar, 27 November 2020



Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

- founded 186 years ago (in 1834)
- libre = free - **critical thinking**
- 1894: Principle of **free inquiry** (Article 1 of statutes) : *“in all matters, independent judgement prevails over arguments from authority”*



Pierre-Théodore Verhaegen

ULB today

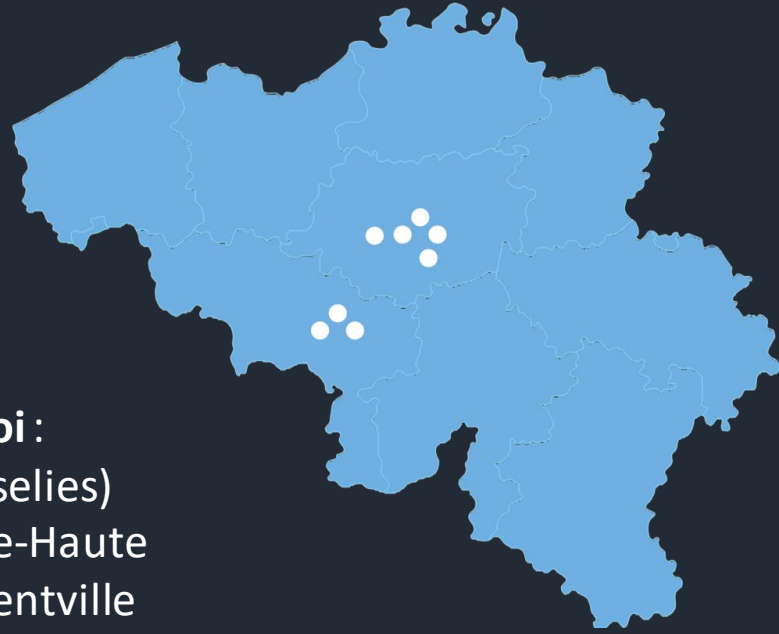


ULB & VUB

Managing the prestigious Solvay Research Institutes

→ In **Brussels** (3 campus and 2 sites) :

- Solbosch
- Plaine
- Erasme
- ULB-Flagey
- ULB-Uccle



→ In **Charleroi** :

- Biopark (Gosselies)
- Charleroi-Ville-Haute
- Charleroi-Parentville



4500
Researchers and
Staff members



2000
Doctoral
candidates



12 Faculties
10 High-quality interdisciplinary
research centers
200+ Research teams



240 +
Doctoral theses
defended each
year

FP7 and H2020 funded projects @ ULB

- **Strategic priorities: ERC grants and Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions**
 - **40 ERC Project Grants** so far: 20 Starting, 10 Consolidator & 10 Advanced
 - **MSCA:** IF, Networks, COFUND
- **Collaborative projects:** 27 presently active
- EU structural funds, COST, Euratom, European Space Agency (ESA), ESPON, Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, Research Infrastructure Programme

RDM support team @ ULB

Research Department: European Liaison Office



Rachel Leproult

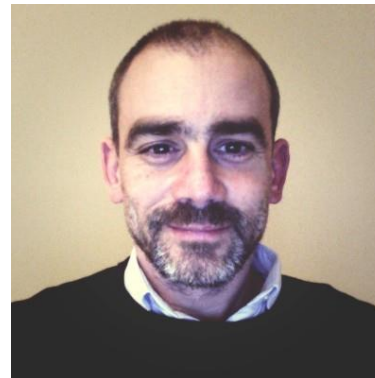


Dragana Petrovic

Department of Libraries and Scientific Information



Françoise Vandooren



Anthony Leroy

RDM - requirements from funding agencies

- Research funders (European, international & national) are **increasingly adopting policies on RDM**
- **Data management** is becoming a **key element** for obtaining research funding
 - **European Commission**
 - **H2020**: Open Research Data Pilot (ORDP)
 - **Horizon Europe**: DMP mandatory
- **International initiatives/efforts for harmonization & RDM quality improvement**
 - **Research Data Alliance**: Active Data Management initiative
 - **Science Europe**: Towards European Guidelines on RDM procedures

Why should researchers manage their data?

- To **meet requirements** of funding bodies and compliance with legal frameworks and ethical guidelines
- To **increase the impact** of their research and get credit for their work through enabling data reuse and receiving citations
- To **reduce the risk** of data loss
- To **protect IP rights** and legitimate interests of data owners
- To **save time** because of facilitated data collection, analysis, collaboration and future reuse
- To **increase transparency and integrity** of the scientific processes and results
- To **use public funds more efficiently** through data reuse and combination of available data sets

To start: Data Management Plan is needed

formal document: a **plan to manage** the data

- **a key element of good data management** -

**However ... researchers are still afraid of DMP!
Why?**

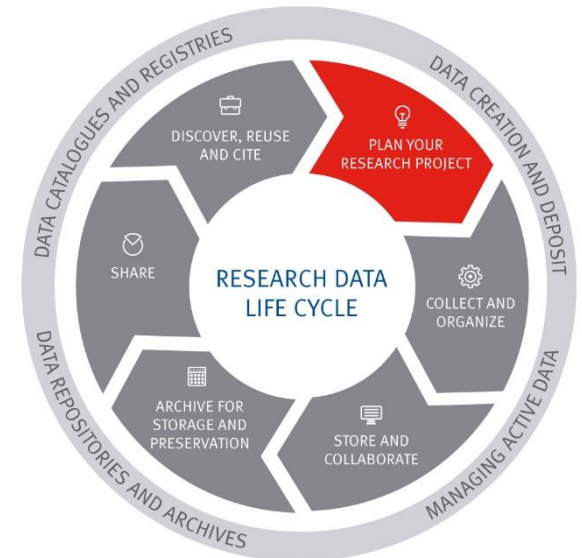
➤ Complicated and time consuming: **NOT TRUE**

- Majority of researchers still have not been in the situation to write a DMP
- They think DMP is only for big, collaborative projects

➤ Pure administrative requirement - **NOT TRUE**

➤ Making DMP is making data OPEN – **NOT TRUE**

- even TTO officers share that fear



FAIR data vs Open data

FAIR data principles

Findable - rich metadata, keywords, persistent identifier (e.g. DOI).

Accessible - data in trusted repositories

Interoperable - standards

Re-usable - licenses



FAIR data vs Open data

FAIR data: “As open as possible, as closed as necessary”



OPEN

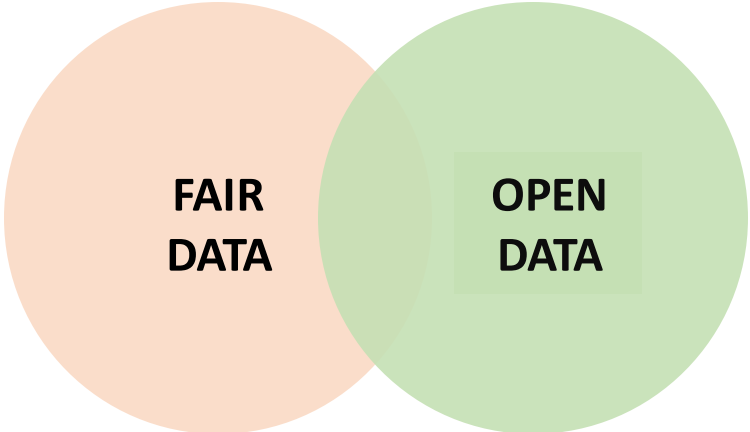
RESTRICTED/CONTROLLED

CLOSED

Freely used,
modified & shared
by anyone for any
purpose

Limits on who can access &
use data, how, or for what
purpose

Under embargo,
unable to share



**FAIR
DATA**

**OPEN
DATA**

We advise researchers to participate in Open Research Data Pilot

- Personalized approach to each application
- Explaining that DMP is
 - Simple & relatively short document
 - Useful
 - It is going to be mandatory soon
 - They will not be alone: tools & personalized advice and help

We provide various support

➤ Tools

- **DMP templates** with implemented **guidance**
- **DMPonline** - online tool to create DMP – implement institutional guidance

➤ Personalized support

- **Individual meetings**: help and personalized advice on preparing DMP
- **Proofreading** of DMP and providing **detailed feedback**
- **Examples** of DMPs

➤ General support

- **Webpages** dedicated to RDM & downloadable guide
- **Training sessions**: RDM basics, DMP workshop, Train the Trainer

RDM training @ ULB

- **RDM basics** - *an introduction to the basic concepts and best practices of research data management*
 - No prior knowledge is required
 - Organised twice per academic year

- **DMP workshop** - *an interactive workshop on how to create Data Management Plan*
 - Prior basic knowledge on research data management is expected
 - Organised in small groups depending on researcher's interest

- **Train the Trainer**
 - For any research support staff who wish to become the local contact point and support for research data management
 - Organised on demand

We motivate researchers to write a good DMP

➤ Asking questions

- If a researcher has access to your data, would he/she be able to re-use them?
- Are you able to retrieve the data 5, 10, ... years after your research project ends?
- If a member of your laboratory leaves, are you able to locate and use the data of his/her research project ?

We motivate researchers to write a good DMP

➤ Asking questions

➤ Explaining things

- DMP doesn't need to be long - be as concrete as possible
- flexible tool and living document
 - DMP can/needs to be updated during a research project
- Institutional solutions and recommendations
 - e.g. storage/archiving possibilities, encrypting software, legal and ethical aspects

We motivate researchers to write a good DMP

- Asking questions
- Explaining things
- Using convincing arguments

2019-11-22

"Sweden's digital sovereignty is threatened by IT services in the cloud" - DN.SE

DAGENS NYHETER.

A printout from Dagens Nyheter, 2019-11-22 09:49
Origin of the article: <https://www.dn.se/debatt/sveriges-digitala-suveranitet-hotas-av-it-tjanster-i-molnet/>

| **DN Debate**

***DN Debate.** "Sweden's digital sovereignty is threatened by IT services in the cloud"*



We advice on Ethical and Legal aspects

➤ Personal or sensitive data

- Informed consent, ethical approvals
- Anonymisation/pseudonymisation
- Secure storage and sharing
- *Collaboration with the DPO and the GDPR team*

➤ Research on humans, animal & plant genetical resources

- Ethical approvals, Nagoya protocol & ABS regulation

➤ Third-party or collaborative data

- Contracts, licenses, collaborative agreements
- *Collaboration with the legal team*

➤ Data with valorisation/commercialization potential

- *Collaboration with the Technology Transfer Office*

Feedback from a young researcher

Email from the **ULB young post-doc**, several weeks **after** the DMP has been approved:

“ (...) I have recently made extensive use of [REDACTED] for a project and now I have plenty of codes, and I am sure that in a year I will completely forget all I have done in the codes except if I make a clear metadata for them. **So now I am starting to understand the philosophy behind DMP!** (...) “

Thank you for your attention

Questions

