An Investigation into Journal Research Data Policies:

Lessons from the JoRD Project

Marianne Bamkin, Jane H Smith, Paul Sturges, Azhar Hussain`

***Centre for Research Communications, University of Nottingham, England***

The Journal Research Data Policy Bank (JoRD) project was a feasibility study carried out by the Centre for Research Communications (CRC) and funded by the UK JISC under its Managing Data Research Programme The study used a mix of methods to examine the scope and form of a sustainable, international, single, central resource that would collate, review and summarise journal policies on research data. and make these summaries available to researchers, managers of research data and other stakeholders. The specific objectives of the study were: to identify the current state of journal data sharing policies; to investigate the views and practices of stakeholders; to develop an overall view of stakeholder requirements and possible service specifications; to explore the market base for a JoRD Policy Bank Service; and to investigate and recommend sustainable business models for the development of a JoRD Policy Bank Service.

The study surveyed and analysed 400 journals, representing the top 200 most cited journals (high impact journals), and the bottom 200 least cited (low impact journals), equally shared between Science and Social Science, based on the Thomson Reuters citation index. Approximately half the journals examined had no data sharing policy. Nearly three quarters of the policies found were assessed as weak and only just under one quarter were deemed to be strong (76%: 24%). The high impact journals were found to have the strongest policies, whereas not only did fewer low impact journals include a data sharing policy, those policies were less likely to stipulate data sharing, merely suggested that it may be done. The policies generally give little guidance on which stage of the publishing process that data are expected to be shared.

Key representatives from publishing and other stakeholders were consulted and the study found that the practicalities of the use, reuse and reproduction of publically funded research data were of concern. The potential of the proposed JoRD service, and sustainable models, was explored. Subsequently an analysis of comparator services and organisations was performed, using interviews and desk research. A need was identified for a service to provide guidance on journal data policies for the various stakeholders.

This poster will present an overall view of the project and its findings, focussing on:

* Journal Research Data Policies, a review of their current state and recommendations for improvement
* Researchers, Publisher’s, Librarians and other stakeholder attitudes to open data and repositories
* Proposed service and business model for the JoRD Policy Bank Service

A poster of the JoRD project reflects the conference theme of Use, Reuse and Reproduce, because the study examined the current situation in the data sharing environment, gathering journal instructions for the deposit of data used in articles and supplementary to articles, and comparing those with the perceptions of researchers on how and where to deposit their data to enable its further reuse. The poster will also cover the conference areas of interest in the effective reuse of research data, facilitation of reproducible research through access to data.