

Data Management Workshop

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Approximately 30 attendees

There was no question within the Workshop as to whether or not data should be held and managed electronically for projects. The question that was addressed was whether there was added value in holding it and maintaining it for future use.

To progress this there were a lot of issues to be taken into account which include:

- Possible future users
- Marginal cost of data enhancements to suit future users
- Storage availability
- identification of data owners, maintainers, champions.
- Type of data, its quality and knowledge of its fitness for purpose (for example asset data must be maintained, time series data is fixed in content but the volume extends indefinitely).

There were other uncertainties too, such as

- knowing whether circumstances had caused the data quality to have changed.
- knowing whether data capture costs may change to make resurvey a cheaper.
- Technology changes could make things obsolete.

However there were several cases identified where time series data archived with no immediate reason has proven invaluable when retrieved later.

The conclusion was that electronic storage should be used wherever possible, and proper consideration of the many issues outlined above should enable a Business Case to be made for long term storage of data in an appropriate place to suit accessibility requirements

Nick Martin