How to get started with research data management (RDM) training services for the academic library?

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Introduction. In 2012, Helsinki University Library began a one-year staff training to enhance research data expertise. The objective was to learn data management practices of the researchers. After training we started to plan RDM training and guidance services.

Case. The staff training was implemented as workshops, seminars as well as learning and development assignments between meetings. By teaching each other, the participants got to know national and international research data repositories of various fields of science. Researchers visited the workshops and provided examples of real-world data practices, for example metadata and handling of personal data in register-based studies. Repository service providers presented their services. The trainees carried out an assessment of the needs of RDM services. After the staff training project, we started to plan RDM training and guidance services for researchers, not all at once, but in small doses. In spring of 2014, we organize three workshops to plan RDM training for newly organized postgraduate schools in the University of Helsinki. The training plan will be implemented during the same spring, when the post graduate schools start for the first time. The training is part of information literacy education, and its contents will be the very basics about RDM. The training will be given in collaboration with the university’s IT unit. Our aim is to get PhD-students to think RDM as a tool for successful research and urge them to find out more. This is our first step to develop research data management (RDM) training services and we hope that it will create demand for more.

Conclusions. Many libraries in Europe are getting started with research data management (RDM). We have successfully trained our staff about the RDM practices of the researchers. Now we have a new project to plan for RDM training and guidance services. We pilot these services in the medical campus, with medical researchers. This case report tells us one true story how library can get started with RDM. Step by step. We are willing to share our experiences about supporting research data management and looking forward to fruitful information exchange among our international colleagues. Hopefully others can benefit from what we have learned and implement some practices also in their organizations.