«We can work it out!»
Collaborating on Research Data Management Services at UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Helene N. Andreassen, PhD
University Library, UiT

Randi Østhus, MA
Research, Education and Communication Division, UiT

NUAS Forum 2019: The Digital Workplace — Skills For a Changing World
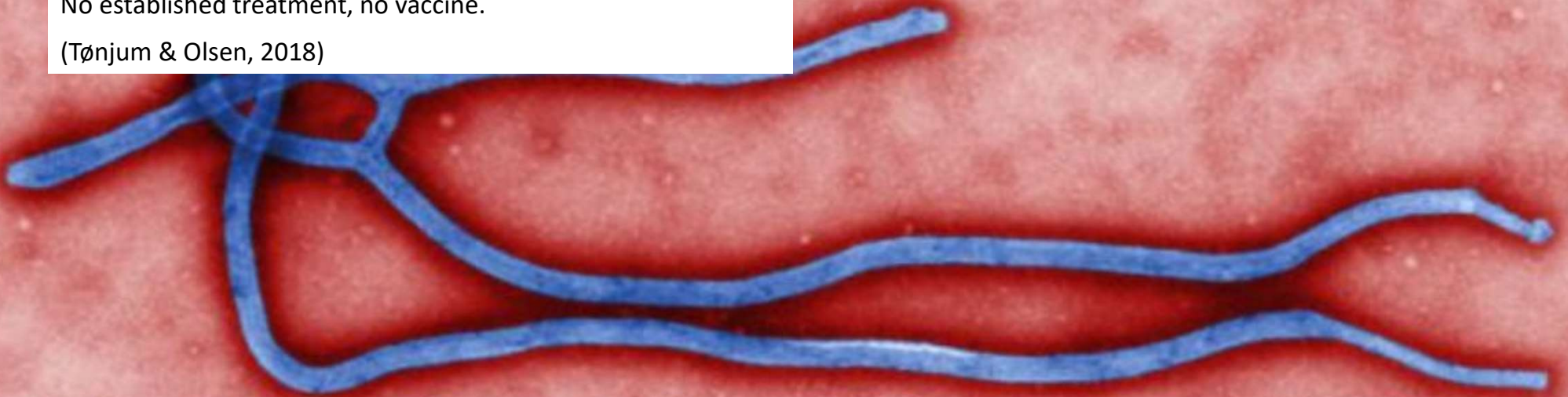*August 14-16 2019, Tromsø*

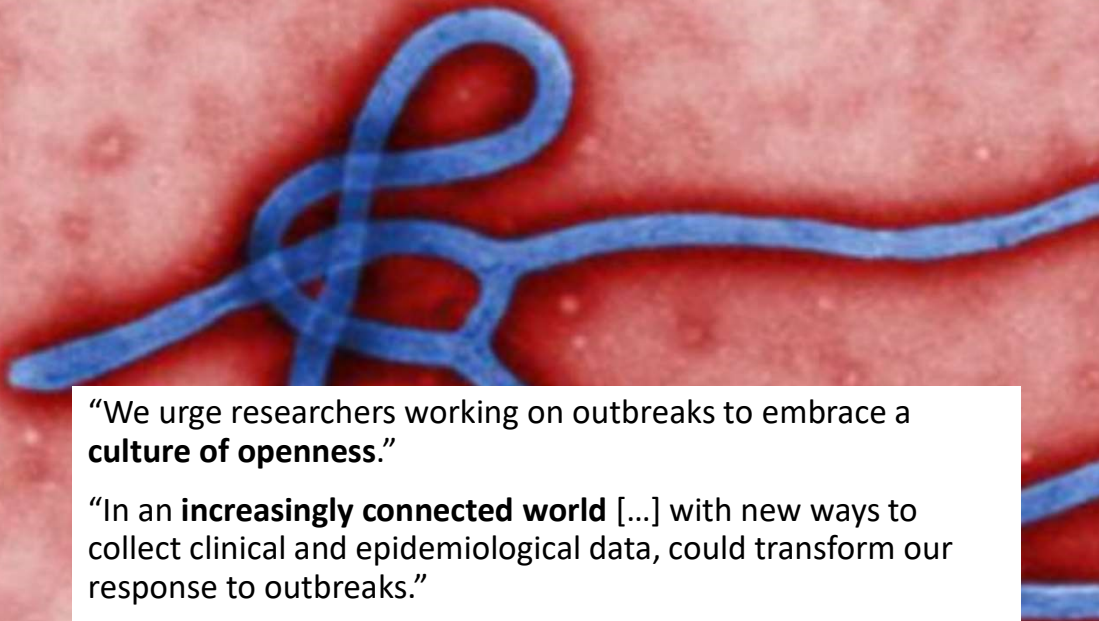Ebola outbreak 2013-2016 in Guinea, spreading to Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Declared an international crisis by WHO.

Over 28 000 reported cases, more than 11 000 deaths.

No established treatment, no vaccine.

(Tønjum & Olsen, 2018)

Bilde: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/

"We urge researchers working on outbreaks to embrace a **culture of openness**."

"In an **increasingly connected world** […] with new ways to collect clinical and epidemiological data, could transform our response to outbreaks."

"[T]he **power** of these potentially massive data sets to combat epidemics will be realized only if the data are **shared as widely and as quickly as possible**."

(Yozwiak et al., 2015, bolding ours)

The UiT strategy

- UiT will be in the **national forefront in Open Science** and our research data and publications will be openly available when possible.

- UiT will be recognized by a culture for **active dissemination through open channels for publishing**, as well as through exhibitions, journals and the media.

- UiT will ensure the **efficiency and quality of its support services** through continuous improvement processes with a broad level of involvement.

(bolding ours)

Outline

Research Data Management (RDM) services at UiT

- Development and scaling

- Organization and collaboration

- Example: RDM training

- The road ahead

Development and scaling of RDM services

2014:
TROLLing (archive linguistic data)

Curation services

Working group RDM UiT

2015:
Survey, report and recommendations for RDM at UiT

2016:
UiT Open Research Data

Training RDM

UiT Board: Commission for policy and infrastructure

2017:
Policy for RDM adopted

UiT Research Data Portal

Request tracker

New local infrastructure for active data

DataverseNO (multi-inst. archive)

2018:
DMP mandatory in PhD projects

Guidance and templates DMP

Expanded training services

2019:
Guidelines for handling DMP

New solutions for working with sensitive data

Roadmap for RDM

2020 Milestone:
Complete Active data infrastructure

Organizing the RDM services

Dataverse NO

Library RDM group

Senior researchers project

IT dep

Coordinating group

University Library

Technical infrastructure

Research Admin

Courses and curation

UiT Management

Policy making

Alignment/ commitment

Support external funding

Implement goals and regulations

The Faculties
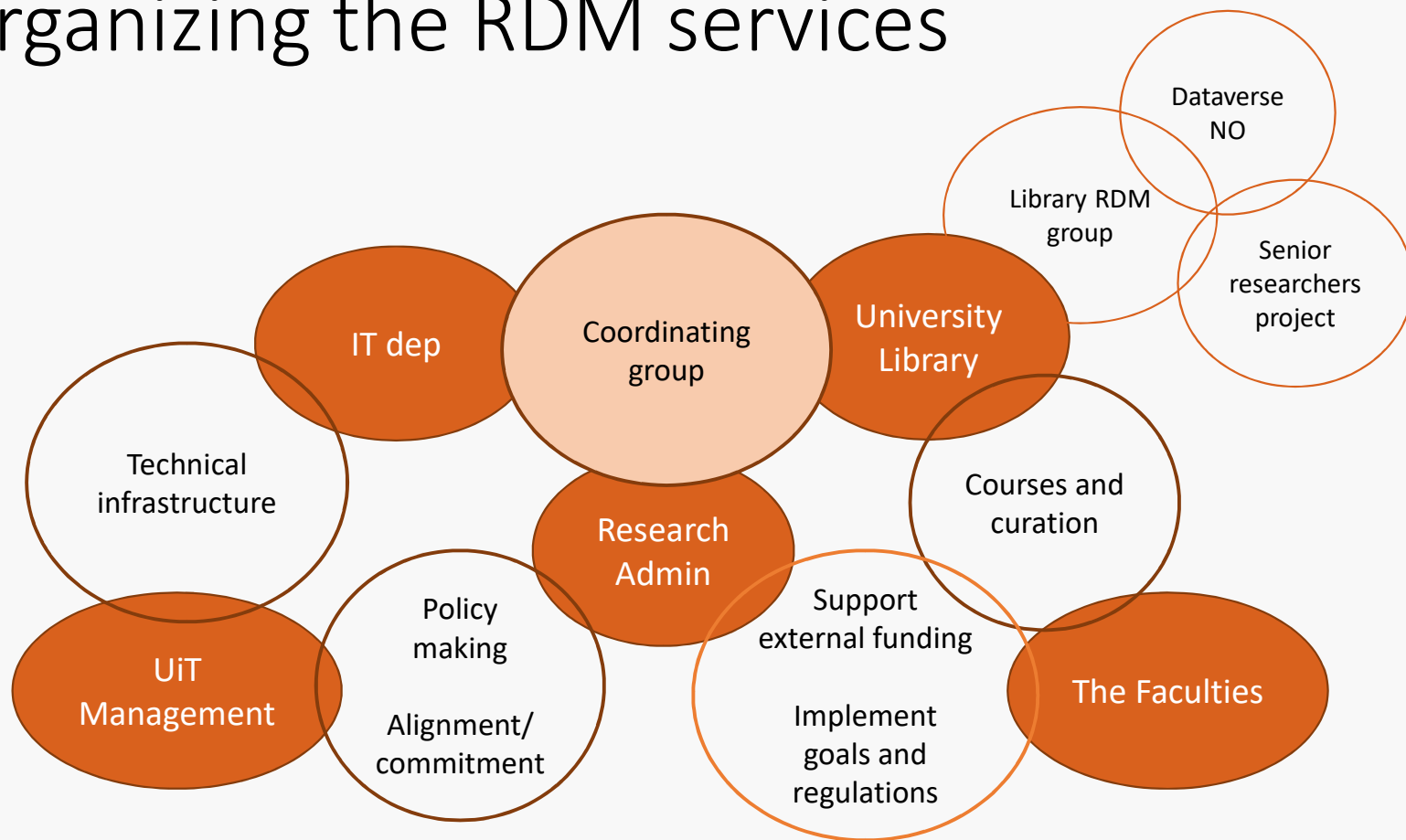
Collaboration - basic principles and activities

Principles

Workflow based on existing organization

Defined responsibilities

Develop and incorporate new competences and services in dialogue and process

Coordinated as one coherent DMP service

No new organizational units/departments (so far)

Management commitment

From pilot and project to integrated services

Activities

Coordinating group (biweekly)

Working groups (project periods)

Workshop with leaders present (yearly)

RDM-lunch (monthly)

Shared digital room (Teams)

Reporting (yearly)

Managers agenda

Collaboration – strengths and challenges

✓ Goals and direction – shared and mutual

✓ Responsibilities well defined

✓ Complementary competence

✓ Flexibility and tolerance

✓ Sufficient resources and capacity

✓ Culture and personal traits – trust, loyalty and shared identity

✓ Efficient organizational complexity and size

✓ Environment – shared understanding

✓ Handling diversity and disagreements

Dialogue & spreading the word

Continuous outreach to research communities, including leaders and supervisors, to raise awareness of their role and responsibilities.

Meetings with different stakeholders at appropriate moments (e.g. policies, funding application deadlines).

Councils with decision-makers

IT events & administrative fora

ToDoS (Tromsø Doctoral Students)

Get invitations and tailor-make sessions for various user groups (e.g. departments, research groups, student networks)

Photo: Colourbox

Dialogue & spreading the word

Continuous outreach to research communities, including leaders and supervisors, to raise awareness of their role and responsibilities.

Meetings with different stakeholders at appropriate moments (e.g. policies, funding application deadlines).

Councils with decision-makers

IT events & administrative fora

ToDoS (Tromsø Doctoral Students)

Get invitations and tailor-make sessions for various user groups (e.g. departments, research groups, student networks)

Photo: Colourbox

Dialogue & spreading the word

Continuous outreach to research communities, including leaders and supervisors, to raise awareness of their role and responsibilities.

Meetings with different stakeholders at appropriate moments (e.g. policies, funding application deadlines).

Councils with decision-makers

IT events & administrative fora

ToDoS (Tromsø Doctoral Students)

Get invitations and tailor-make sessions for various user groups (e.g. departments, research groups, student networks)

Photo: Colourbox

Community-based initiatives & learning by doing

- Developing different types of archival solutions in collaboration with the research communities.

Archive for the international community, individual datasets.

Archive for the UiT node of a national infrastructure, data series.

- Learning about new types of data in in-depth collaboration with the project research group.

Prestige - Gender Balance in Research Leadership at UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Centre for Women's and Gender Research, UiT

RDM training @ UiT

Acquisition of competence and skills in safe, competent and collaborative conditions, fuelled by **engagement and interaction** horizontally and vertically.

All training framed in a **learning perspective**
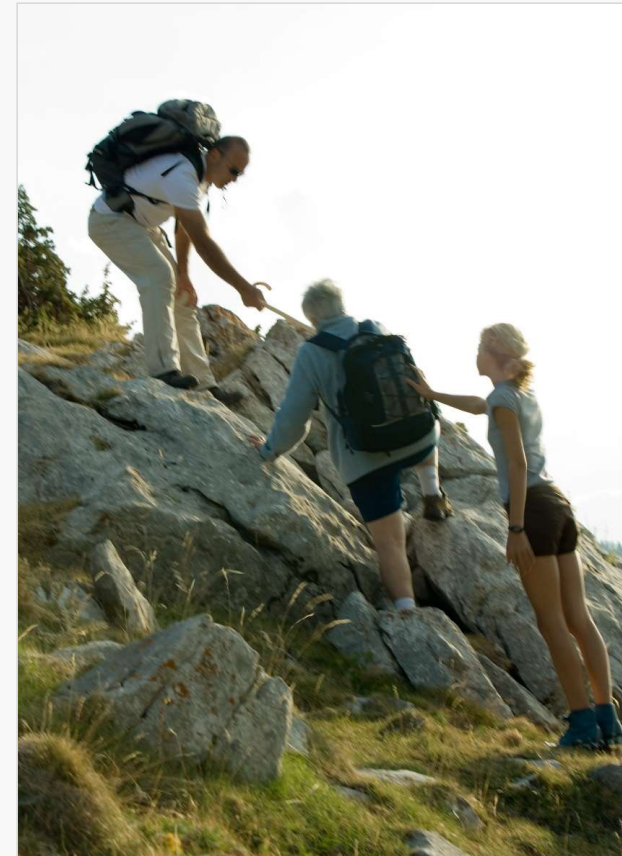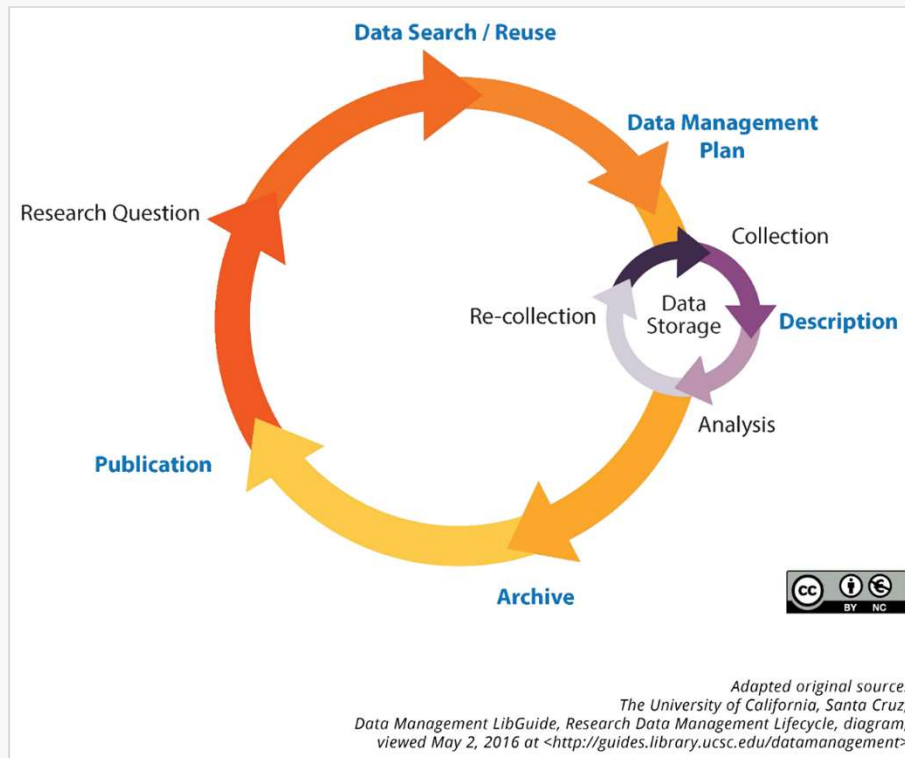
- motivation

- activity

- support

Photo: Colourbox

Developing the training program

Data Search / Reuse

Data Management Plan

Collection

Research Question

Re-collection

Data Storage

Description

Publication

Analysis

Archive

Adapted original source:
The University of California, Santa Cruz,
Data Management LibGuide, Research Data Management Lifecycle, diagram,
viewed May 2, 2016 at <http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/datamanagement>

- Starting point: the RDM lifecycle.

- Gradually filling gaps, with responsibility assigned to the relevant unit.

- Teaching group: 8 people and growing.

- Capacity building through experience, feedback and peer evaluation.

The training program

Photo: Rune Ytreberg

- Guidance
  - Dataset curation
  - Data Management Plans
  - Application writing

- Open courses
  - Introduction to the whys of RDM
  - Thematic courses (searching, structuring, storing, sharing, citing, licencing, agreements, DMP)

- Handling data with sensitive information (under development)
  - Working group in place
  - IT, legal advisors, data curators, researchers

RDM integrated in regular teaching

Supervisor seminars, PhD courses with ECTS credits, MA programs

Photo: Jose Ochoa/Daily Nexus

Photo: flickr.com/photos/uitfoto

The road ahead

- Implement research data management as part of regular operations at the institution.
- Respond to national guidelines.
- Collaborate nationally in an international context: RDA Norway.

«We can work it out!»
Collaborating on Research Data Management Services at UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Helene.n.andreassen@uit.no

Randi.osthus@uit.no

NUAS Forum 2019: The Digital Workplace — Skills For a Changing World
August 14-16 2019, Tromsø

References

Tønjum, Tone & Olsen, Thale Kristin. (2018, 10 April). Ebola. In *Store medisinske leksikon*. Retrieved 22 October 2018 from https://sml.snl.no/ebola.

Yozwiak, N. L., Schaffner, S. F. & Sabeti, P. C. (2015, 25 February). Data sharing: Make outbreak research open access. *Nature, 518*(7540). Retrieved 22 October 2018 from https://www.nature.com.

Abstract

Since long, UiT The Arctic University of Norway devotes much focus and resources on Open Science, in particular open access to publications and open research data. Navigating in a landscape of rapid change, collaboration is key to raise awareness, create engagement, enhance competence, and make things move forward. In this talk, we focus on the development of support services for research data management within the frame of an institutional policy adopted in 2017. We pay particular attention to the collaboration between the research administration, the IT department and the University Library, which has proven successful for UiT at the institutional, national, and international level.

Research data @ UiT