

Using the handbook at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Workshop Practical implementation of FAIR-related
content in university curricula and teaching
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Scenarios in which we could use the book

1. Expand FAIR training for researchers and potentially students
2. Collaborate with other Dutch HEIs to set up a collaborative framework for data and software training
3. Policy development and implementation



Current situation

Currently provided:

- Course 'Writing a Data Management Plan' for PhDs
- Individual events, both at central level and for faculties or departments

Challenge:

- Courses are labor-intensive and all RDM support staff is very busy, so there is hardly any space for
 - developing new courses for PhDs
 - developing training for groups that don't receive any training at the moment, e.g. BA and MA students, senior researchers



Collaboration with other HEIs

Currently happening:

- Knowledge exchange in
 - Collaboration of all Dutch University Libraries (UKB)
 - LCRDM (Dutch National Coordination point for RDM)
- Hardly any joint teaching
- Not very common to accept researchers from other institutions to courses

Challenges:

- To be able to set up a collaborative framework for training, RDM support staff need to spend time on activities external to their own organization and they are very busy → it's hard to get relevant people together to work on joint training materials



Policy development and implementation

Current policy status:

- Central RDM policy was last updated in 2020 and mentions FAIR principles explicitly
- All faculties have a faculty implementation of the policy
- Implementation of the policies in practice is lagging behind

Challenge:

- We're struggling with how to motivate faculties to set up procedures and support to turn RDM policy into practice

Research Data Management policy

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam | Version 2.0, 17-2-2020

INTRODUCTION

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is strongly committed to the accessibility of research output, namely publications and data.¹ They are important to the visibility, verifiability and reusability of research.²

This policy document summarizes the university-wide principles for careful handling of research data. At the level of the faculties, these principles are developed into faculty guidelines that comply with the central policy and cover all departments and research institutes.

This document shows how the responsibilities with respect to research data are covered within the VU, based on the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (previously Netherlands Code of Conduct for Academic Practice) from the VSNU, the Standard Evaluation Protocol (SEP) for Research Assessments in the Netherlands 2015-2021, the FAIR principles³ for research data and relevant legislation. In addition, it presents the facilities provided by the VU for managing research data. The document may be updated if required by new developments.

PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY

This policy is intended to promote:

1. the careful handling of research data by researchers in order to:
 - enhance the impact of their research,
 - demonstrate the scientific integrity of their research,
 - comply with legal requirements, codes of conduct and funding bodies' demands regarding Research Data Management;
2. awareness of the importance of Research Data Management among researchers;
3. clarity about the responsibilities regarding Research Data Management among researchers.

¹ Research data are defined as recorded information that is necessary to substantiate scientific research. Depending on the discipline concerned, this may involve, for example, text, images, sound, spreadsheets, databases, statistical data, geographic data, etc. Non-digitizable research data are outside the scope of this policy.

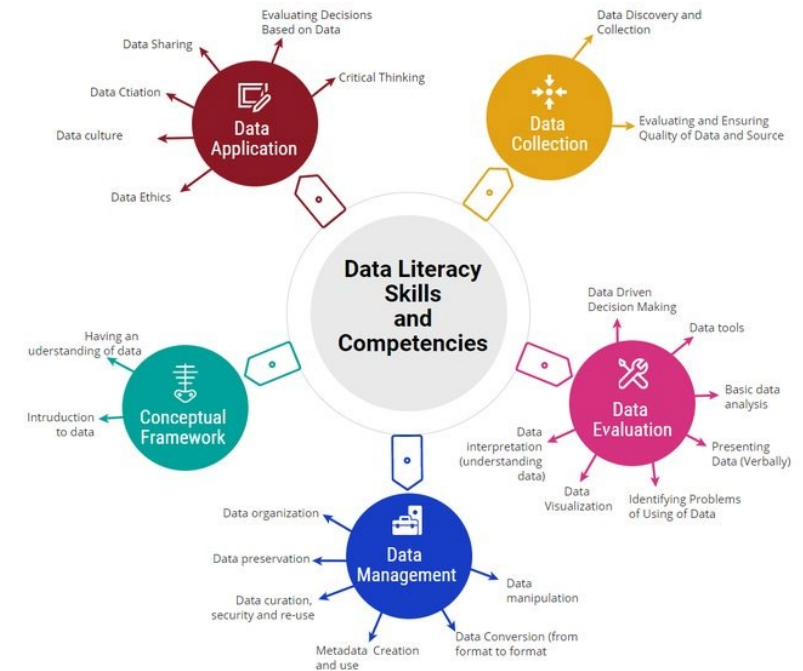
² See also the Vrije Universiteit's strategic plan.

³ See [FORCE11's website](https://www.force11.org/group/fairgroup/fairprinciples) (<https://www.force11.org/group/fairgroup/fairprinciples>) for a description of the FAIR data principles and the article by [Wilkinson et al.](#) (2016; doi:10.1038/sdata.2016.18) for an elaborate discussion.

How can the book help?

Training

- FAIR Skills and Competences (Chapter 3) and Teaching and training designs for FAIR (Chapter 4) will help us developing a coherent curriculum for RDM and FAIR training
- FAIR Skills and Competences (Chapter 3), Teaching and training designs for FAIR (Chapter 4) and Lesson plans (Chapter 5) will make it easier to design new training sessions



Guler (2019:15), adapted from Ridsdale et al. (2015:38)

Collaboration with other HEIs

- Learning outcomes (Chapter 4) and Lesson plans (Chapter 5) make it easier to agree on course design within a collaboration
- The materials in this book can be used as a starting point to develop training together

Policy development and implementation

- Implementing FAIR (Chapter 6) will help
 - in identifying relevant stakeholders we should talk to
 - what to discuss with them
 - identifying which aspects of the central and faculty policies we need to consider for revision

I expect the handbook will provide practical support in teaching, collaboration in teaching and in policy development.

I'm curious about your expectations: Do you see similar use cases in your institution, or completely different ones?