The Power of People

Mary O’Connor, Manager Research Support, Library
Helen Foster, Enterprise Change Manager, ITDS

adelaide.edu.au
How research data outreach roles drove high adoption of an electronic research notebook system.
Research Data (ReDa) project - 2017-18

figshare
Research data repository

Managing your Research Data
Online course

Research Data Planner
Online data management planning tool

LabArchives
Electronic research notebook system
Research Data Outreach Officers

With thanks to Gareth Denyer, Research Data Steward at the University of Sydney.

- Late stage PhD students
- 2 staff, each .5 FTE
- Advertised internally and promoted the roles in faculties
- Good technical base
- Self-directed and excellent ability to communicate
Tanya Jayne
Biological sciences
PC2 wet lab
In final stages of writing during the project.

Toby Lightheart
Engineering
IT-based research
Submitted and graduated during the project.
User counts and activity rates
May 2018 – Sept 2019
Notebooks per Faculty - researchers only

- Arts: 53
- Engineering: 79
- Health: 230
- Sciences: 308
- The Professions: 6
Notebooks per Faculty – researchers and undergraduates

- Arts: 102
- Engineering: 470
- Health: 277
- Sciences: 666
- The Professions: 8
Testimonials

"We deployed LabArchives to 200 honours students, and Toby’s presentation and written guides allowed the students to start using the platform with no additional help from our academic staff.”

Dr Will Robertson, Honours Co-ordinator, School of Mechanical Engineering

“I was concerned that Arts students might not be as engaged as STEM students, but Tanya convinced them of its purpose.”

Associate Professor Natalie Edwards, Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Arts
Strategic planning to 2025

• New strategic plans created for University and ITDS in 2019

• In-person support for researchers featured strongly in consultation

• eResearch function recommended by ITDS

• Initiative is now with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).
Change management

1. Prosci’s ADKAR® Model

- Awareness
- Desire
- Knowledge
- Ability
- Reinforcement

2. Managers need to be helped through change before they can support others.

3. People need to hear messages multiple times before they act.

Heart icon made by Google from www.flaticon.com Other icons from Microsoft PowerPoint
A planned approach
What worked?

- Job description and salary attracted good candidates
- Candidate selection was key
- Full members of the agile project team – part of the bigger picture
- Trust, respect, autonomy
- 2 weeks to familiarise themselves before reaching out to areas
Good administrative practices

- Half day overlap
- Trello
- Jira
- Shared email address
- Shared calendar
- Email - cc everyone
- Web site
- Cloud file storage
What would we do differently next time?

- Target the Arts and Professions faculties differently
  - Approach their schools earlier
  - Focus groups
  - Showcase different uses, eg Anthropology field notes
  - Employ an RDOO from one of these faculties
  - Rebadge LabArchives as “Electronic Research Notebook”
- Marketing/sales training
Most importantly, we would...

Keep the role as a permanent asset, including the original staff.