Unpacking the structures of radical interdependence

The experience of the Data Curation Network
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Ethical. Reusable. Better.
Who has worked on a collaborative project to build infrastructure or services?
How many of you have worked on a collaborative project that failed or did not live up to its potential?
Mission

Trusted, community-led network of curators advancing open research by making data

Ethical. Reusable. Better.
DCN provides the “human layer” in the local technology stack

Data Repository Platforms

Shared workflow across DCN institutions

DCN CURATE Workflow

C  Check files and metadata
U  Understand and run files
R  Request missing information
A  Augment metadata
T  Transform file formats
E  Evaluate for FAIRness

Ethical. Reusable. Better.
Some of our successes...

...full report coming soon!
Towards Sustainability

Planning Phase Grant
- 6 partners
- 2016
- Research and planning
  - Researcher focus groups “Most important curation activities”
  - Pilots
  - Comparison of curation workflows
  - Fiscal models

Model published
- 2017
- (2017) A cross-institutional staffing model for curating research data. IJDC 13(1)

Launching the Network
- 2018
- Hired 1FTE coordinator
- Trained first curator cohort
- Put technology/workflows into place.

Implementation Phase Grant
- 10 partners
- 2019
- Data Curation Network goes live Jan 1, 2019 with 10 partner institutions!

Sustaining the DCN
- 12 partners
- 2020
- Assess and Adjust
  - Special interest groups
  - Research value of curation
  - Sustainability planning

2021
- Transition to membership model
  - Establish membership model
  - Launch Governance Board
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 12:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch - Catered in room (sandwiches/salad/beverages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 - 1:15 PM</td>
<td>Welcome Session (30 m)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Goals for the meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Process/ground rules for this meeting</td>
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<td>- Code of conduct</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 - 2:30 PM</td>
<td>Breakout #1 Taking the 10,000 foot view</td>
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<td>- What are academic researcher needs in the data?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Who is actively trying to find solutions for these</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 - 2:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 - 4:30</td>
<td>Breakout #2 DCN Success</td>
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<td>- What successes has the DCN had? What research was solved and what impact has that made?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- How did we accomplish these successes? What</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 - 5:00</td>
<td>Defriew JamBoard and Round Robin</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Radical interdependence is more than cooperation –

- It’s depending on others outside of your organization to “do the work.”
- It’s about trust, vulnerability, and accountability, not from a punitive perspective, but from an intrinsic desire to show up for and serve one another based on clear expectations, commitments, and the shared goal of advancing the field.
- It’s about pooling our resources, our knowledge, and our interests, to better accomplish our work and advocate for the role of data curators.
- It’s about recognizing the interconnectedness of the work we are all doing.
DCN Collaborative Structures

Administrative structures

Trust-based structures

Tool-based structures
Administrative Structures

Tools that enable the organization to develop and operate as a collective
Administrative Structure Examples

- Grants funding
- Shared governance model
- Full-time project personnel
- Consistent curator on-boarding
Tool-based Structures

Tools that enable the organization to function on a day-to-day basis.
Tool-based Structure Examples

- Collaborative office tools
- Workflow management system
- Educational materials—DCN Primers and Workshops
- DCN Website
Trust-based Structures

Structures that required, fostered, and sustained trust among members
Trust-based Structure Examples

- All Hands Meetings
- Special Interest Groups
- Code of conduct
- Collaboratively developed mission, vision and values
- Shared leadership and collective ownership
What collaborative structures (tool, admin, trust) worked for you?
What are some ways to inject these structures into your next project?
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