Research data management – why should you care?

Because...

- you can make your life easier and less stressful
  - Early planning and thinking ahead will ensure your workflows are well-established before you become overwhelmed by research materials.

- you might avoid catastrophe
  - Safe-guarding your data minimises the impact of theft or loss, and ensures valuable data does not become obsolete or inaccessible.

- you need to ride the ‘data wave’ not drown in a sea of irrelevance
  - Dealing with all the data you collect means being able to sort the “wheat from the chaff”. You can’t and shouldn’t keep everything.

- you may want to use your research data again
  - Describing your data as you create it ensures it is readily interpretable and reusable by others and your future self.

- you may need to justify your claims
  - Essential to research integrity, your well-managed research data allows you to defend your conclusions and others to validate your research results.

- you can enhance your opportunities to ‘make friends and influence people’
  - Well-managed, quality research data optimises the potential for collaboration and future research.

- you can receive credit for the data you produce
  - Citations for research datasets are trending up because it is recognised as a primary research output.

- you may be required to do so
  - Complying with funding body policies, institutional policies, legal obligations, codes of conduct, publisher requirements and community norms are all part of ‘best practice’ research.