Royal College of Art

Painting the Road to Research Data Management at the RCA

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Research at the RCA

Specialist postgraduate Art and Design College

Three campuses (Kensington, Battersea and White City)

Four Schools, Four Research Centres

Interdisciplinary research; Art, Design, Humanities and STEM

Studio and Practice based focus
What does ‘data’ mean?

Something digital?
Something numerical?
Something scientific?
Not something I have?

Furet, Charlotte (2016) *Living Pixels: A living, digital display made from bioluminescent bacteria*
What does our ‘data’ look like?

Brown, Steve (2018) Prototypes

Stevens, John (2018) SuperTowel

Jackson, Elizabeth (2007) The Glacier Project
What does our ‘data’ look like?

McAleer, Sarah (2003) *Children’s Jewellery in Europe - traditions and contemporaneity*

Phillips, Rob (2020) *My Naturewatch*

Gaudion, Katie (2015) *A Designer’s Approach: Exploring how autistic adults with additional learning disabilities experience their home environment*
What does our ‘data’ look like?
RCA RDM policy

Aspirational policy

Developed with the DCC

Covers all RCA research projects

Outlines responsibilities of multiple stakeholders

Provides clear framework and guidance for good practice

Boyd, Jonathan (2009) Ink Well (exploded)
A lifecycle for the arts?

JISC (2020) Research Data Lifecycle, shared under a CC-BY-ND license

DCC (2020) Curation Lifecycle Model
RCA Research Data Lifecycle

- **EPrints / Pure portal**
  - Data Access Statement
  - Artists website / Project website / Exhibition venues

- **RCA Research Repository (EPrints)**
  - RCA Special Collections & Archives
  - Ext. venues (Figshare, UKDS, etc)

- **Library of funder DMP templates**
  - RCA institutional DMP template
  - Linked to RCA ethics workflow

- **Studio based**
  - Flexible support and consultation
  - Capturing process and practice

- **Standard Library facilities**
  - College Photographer
  - Special Collections book scanner, flatbed scanner, and studio

- **Secure physical storage**
  - Digital G suite tools
  - Appropriate metadata and documentation, backups, format
Communicating the service

Language that speaks to art and design researchers

Stress the benefits to research community

Regular opportunities for training

Departmental champions

Visible, dynamic, proactive support

Faingold, Kitty (2017) BodyWorld
Challenges and opportunities

STEM oriented policy landscape

Multiplicity of policies

Staff time & policy fatigue

Infrastructure

Understanding – Mandate vs good research practice

Mato, Patricia (2016) Horror Vacui
Thanks

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