

# MaDAM Pilot Data Management Infrastructure for Biomedical Researchers at University of Manchester & Transition towards the Successor Project MiSS

## Project Teams

MeRC : **Meik Poschen**, June Finch (PM), Rob Procter, Mhorag Goff\*

RC/ITS : Mary McDerby, Simon Collins\*

JRUL : Jon Besson, Phil Butler, Lorraine Beard (PI),  
Tom Grahame\*

## Project Sponsor

Jan Wilkinson (JRUL)

\* only MaDAM project

Funded by the

JISC

+ University of Manchester  
Contribution

# 4<sup>th</sup> Paradigm: data-intensive research

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- Challenge: the “remarkable growth of data-intensive research in all knowledge domains” (Blue Ribbon Task Force report, 2010) over the last years and the need “to do better at producing tools to support the whole research cycle – from data capture and data curation to data analysis and data visualization” (Jim Gray, 2007).
- This means taking into account the multitude of data types and formats and ensuring that technical and non-technical solutions for (collaboratively) managing and sharing data will fit in with the research & data lifecycle, diverse working practices, cultures and disciplines.

# Funding Stream & Landscape

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MaDAM ran from Oct 2009 to June 2011 and was one of 8 projects funded under the Infrastructure Strand of the JISC Managing Research Data Programme (JISCMRD; overall over 30 projects funded, including 3 support projects):

JISCMRD: “Higher Education Institutions are coming under increasing pressure to manage the research data generated by their researchers that cannot be curated by subject-based data centres - and many are unsure how to proceed given the absence of clear good practice.”

Overall Research Councils in the UK also recognise the need for better data curation procedures, the US NSF similarly calls such a “scientific necessity”.

# MaDAM Project Overview

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**Aim:** To produce a technical & governance solution based on researchers' requirements with flexibility to meet needs across multiple research groups / disciplines and taking into account the institutional landscape and its policies.

**Rationale:**

- Researchers need to be supported to manage their data well and comply with legal and funder policies.
- Funders want to ensure public money spent on research is maximised → this means ensuring research data is preserved for reuse.
- Potential future value in data assets needs to be preserved.

**Background:** No existing institutional repository or strategy for management of research data – BUT the MaDAM Pilot is part of a wider endeavour at University of Manchester to develop such.

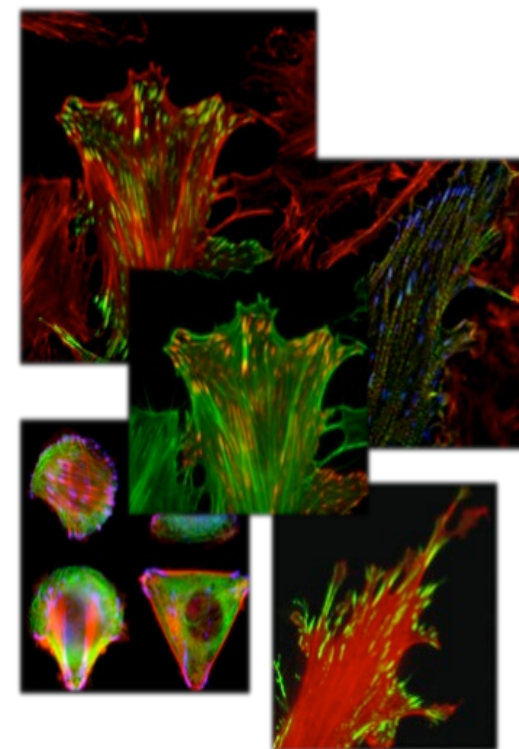
# The MaDAM Solution will..

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- Provide trusted secure storage to reduce risks of data loss and to adhere to funder's new retention policies (WT: 20 years!!)
- Make metadata visible and searchable
- Facilitate easier, more secure owner-controlled data sharing
- Enable annotation of data including ad hoc context and 'notes to self'
- Reduce redundancy by enabling linking
- Maintain media and format accessibility for long term reuse
- Ensure that technical and non-technical solutions for managing and sharing data will fit in with the research lifecycle, diverse working practices, cultures and disciplines

# Domains & Pilot User Groups

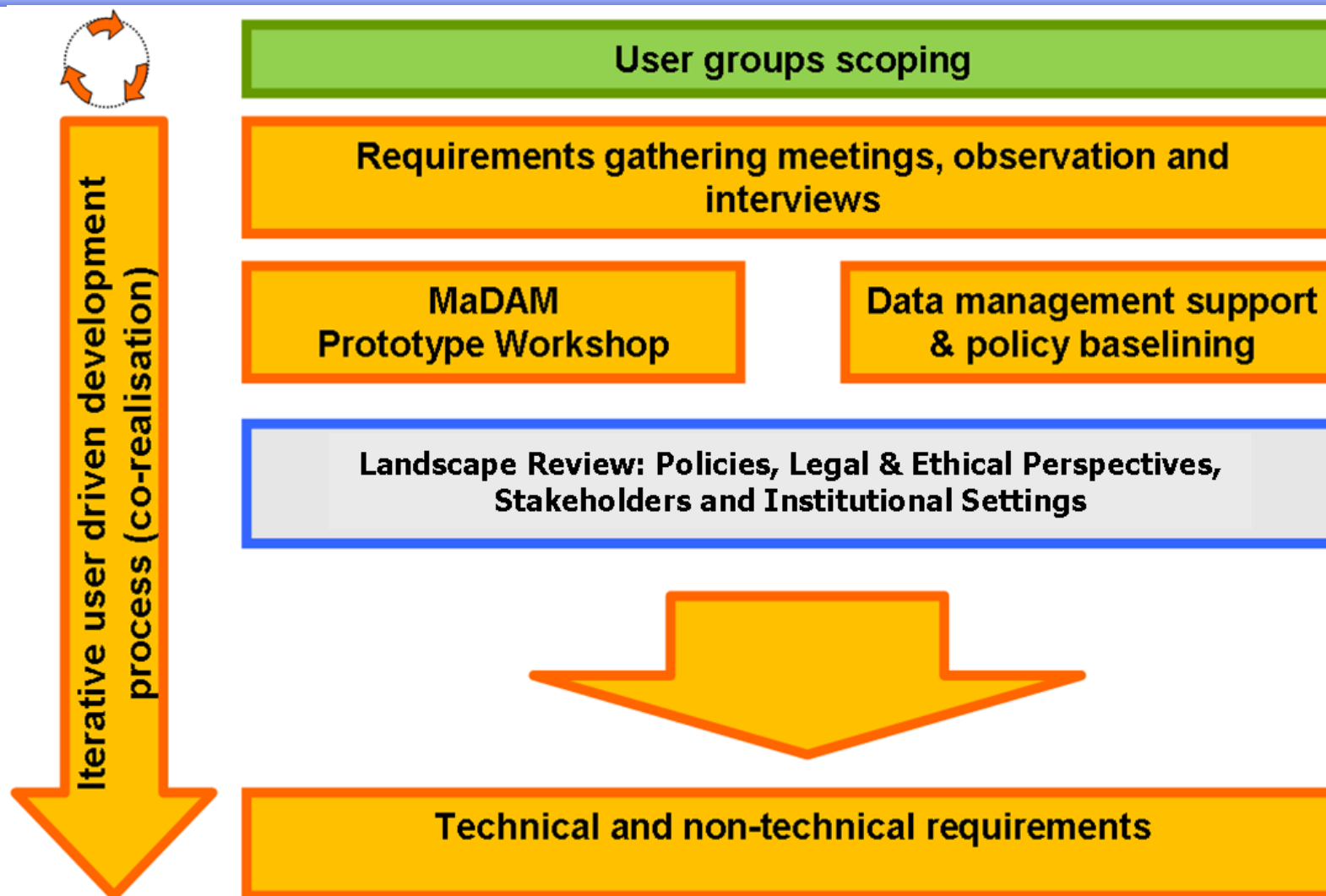
- Biomedical Domain at University of Manchester with user groups from a) Life Sciences Electron and Standard Microscopy (4 groups with 8 active core users plus occasional users) & b) Medical Science MRI Neuropsychiatry Unit (1 group/5 users)
- Images as main Research Objects in diverse formats, resolutions, sizes coming from a number of instruments (microscopes, brain images from MRI scanners); also other data types (text docs, metadata, statistical and output data)
- The work with the pilot user groups is further complemented by information/requirements gathered from additional researchers and PIs within the domain, IT and experimental officers as well as research and data policy managers.



Up to 12 different file types  
From 0.5MB to 17GB/file  
**'Raw data'**

- > Microscope samples: single run creates any image set from 1-200 GB
- > MRI brain scans: usually one study consists of 20-40 GB

# MaDAM 'Method-flow'



# Local Data Management Practices Found

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- Cleaning & preparing raw data for analysis
- Identifying and selecting good quality data to work on BUT time investment is needed to develop it
- Use of traditional lab books to record experiment metadata BUT not easy to search
- Sharing data for discussion, feedback, expertise exchange and workflow management
- Use of portable devices for transferring, sharing and flexible temporary storage
- Multiple copies of data needed to explore analysis pathways including potential 'dead-ends'
- Redundancy necessary to organize and find data BUT exacerbates storage capacity issues and also ironically discovery
- Retention of data even from failed experiments BUT much old data is rarely revisited and poor preservation practice means its hard to reuse



# Findings

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- No official backup policies to protect against loss of data
  - Decentralized & fragmented storage (USB sticks, optical disks)
  - Limited ability to share data internally or externally
  - High levels of redundant data (duplicate copies)
  - No structured annotation of data
  - Limited search capabilities
  - Limited means to disseminate data
  - No archiving policies to guarantee long term curation
- waste of time – risk of data loss – finding, reuse & sharing difficult – clogging of valuable storage space**

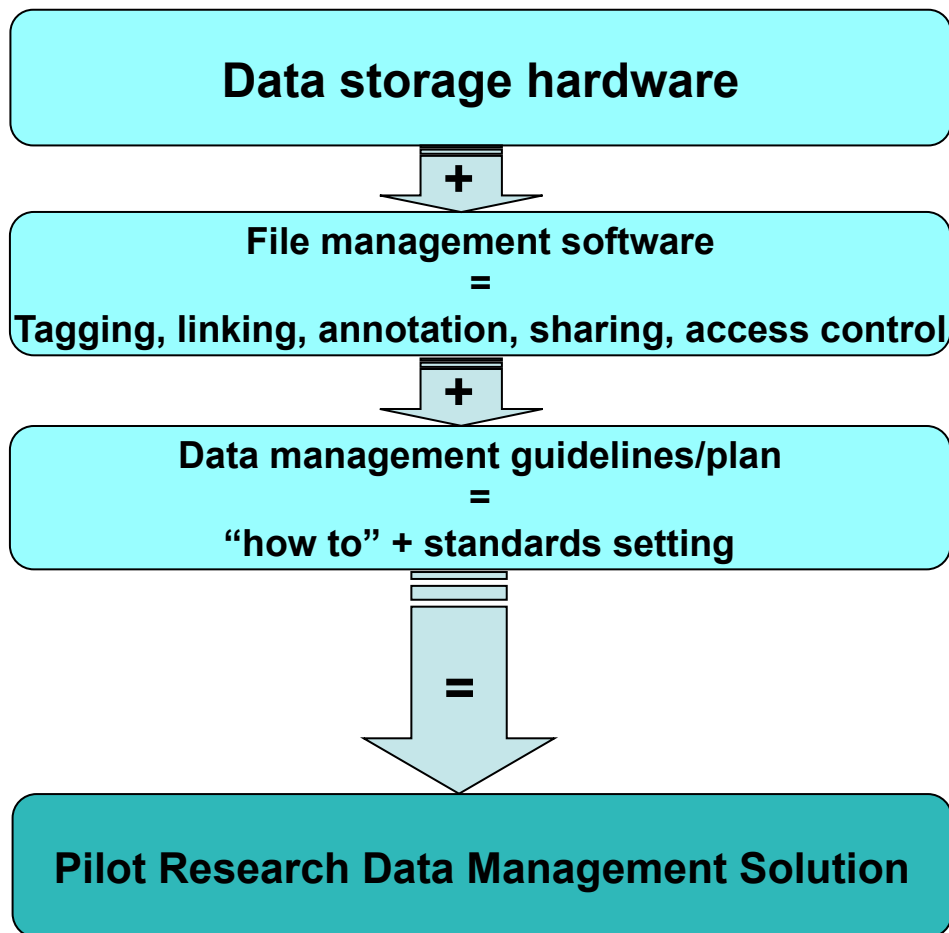
# Main Requirements

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- Generic need for trusted, structured central storage with auto-back up and improved capabilities for reuse, sharing, searching and overall management of data files.
- The prototype provides a navigation structure based on researchers' projects and experiments, centralized and backed up data storage, access rights, linkage and annotation of research data and a search function.
- Need for good practices in data management and digital curation policies to tie in with researchers' actual research practice, institutional settings and cultures.

# MaDAM Pilot Overview

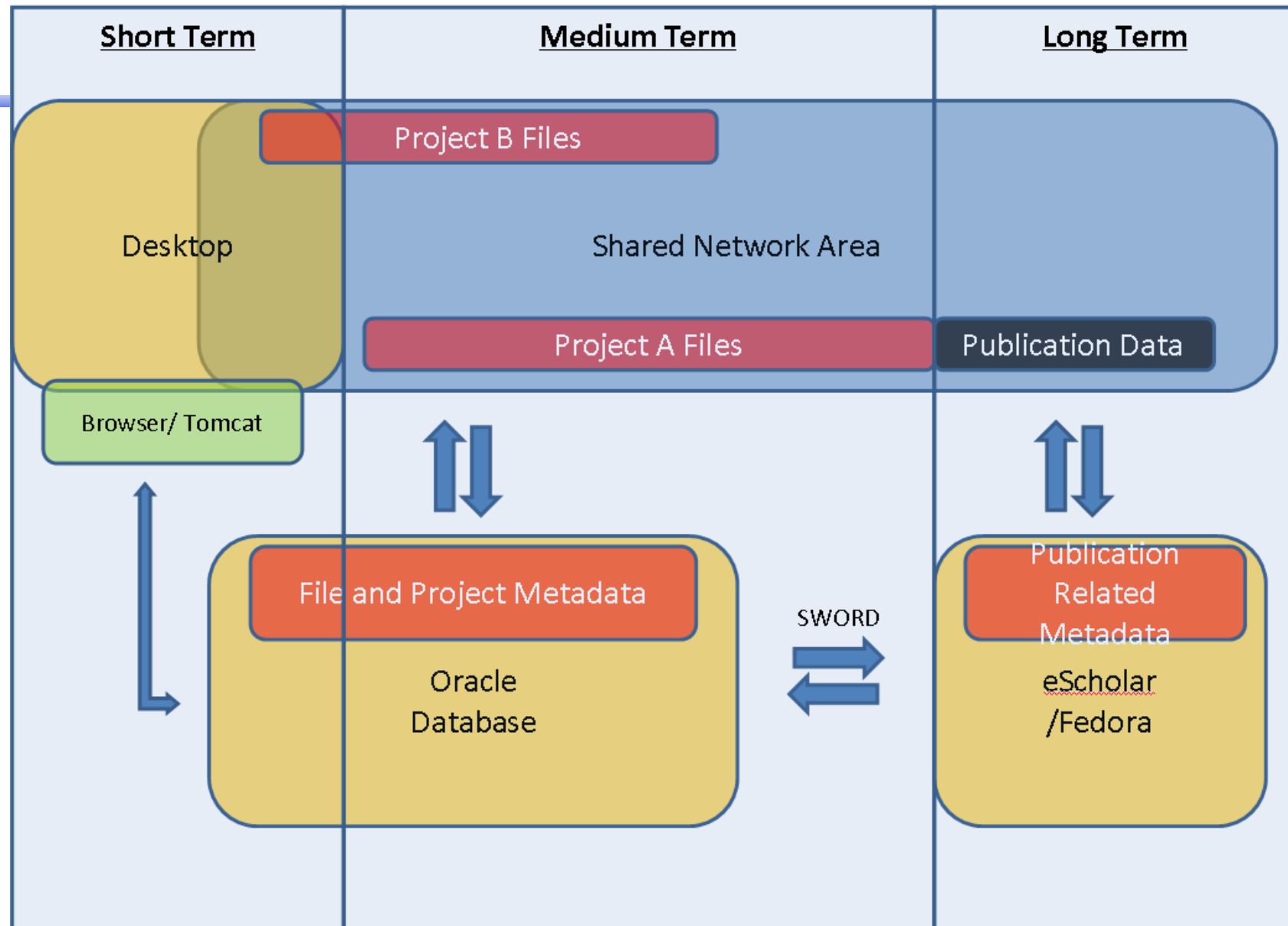
## Aim: Pilot Research Data Management Solution



Many angles to cover:

- Research Practice
- Discipline/Domain
- Technical Solution
- Policies/Procedures
- Institutional Settings  
(Stakeholders & Infrastructure)
- Funding Landscape
- Cost-Benefit Analysis

# MaDAM Pilot Storage/Architecture



# MaDAM Pilot: Authentication/Accounts

## Auto Account Creation

**Data** **Setup**

**User Details** | My Attributes | My Projects | Sys Admin | Edit Help |

### My Details

[Update](#)

Full Name	Simon Collins
Telephone	<input type="text" value="01612750604"/>
Dept	<input type="text" value="RCS"/>
Title	<input type="text" value="Oracle DBA"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="simon.collins-2@manchester.ac.uk"/>

### Login

Username Password [Login](#)

Please Log in with your University Credentials

### Projects I Manage

Name	Description	Create Date	Status
Skin Analysis	-	27-MAY-2010	1
bone morphogenetic protein-1	-	27-MAY-2010	1
popliteal pterygium syndrome	-	27-APR-2010	3
Nanostructure of fibrillin-1	-	27-APR-2010	1

1 - 4

### Project

[Create Project](#)

### Project Search

Project Name  Owner  [Go](#)

Details	Name	Owner	Create Date
	Bivariate Match Odds	Alan Roseman	27-APR-2010
	mammalian tolloid	Clair Baldock	27-APR-2010
	Geospatial Project	Ricky Tsang	27-APR-2010
	Applet Work	Jon Besson	27-APR-2010
	MaDAM Project	June Finch	27-APR-2010
	Mary's Exciting Project	Mary McDerby	27-APR-2010

### Project Details

[Apply For Access](#)

**Name** mammalian tolloid  
Structural and functional evidence for a substrate exclusion mechanism in mammalian tolloid like-1 (TLL-1) proteinase

**Comments**

**Owner** Clair Baldock  
**Create Date** 27-APR-2010

## Project Creation and Location

## MaDAM Pilot: Project Setup/Access

**Data** **Setup**

User Details | My Attributes | **My Projects** | Sys Admin | Edit Help |

Project Project C **Project Access**

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**Project Details**
Delete Apply Changes

**Name** Project C

**Owner** Simon Collins

**Create Date** 27-APR-2010

**Review Date** 23-DEC-2010

**Description**

**Status** Available

**Requested Disk (GB)** 500

**Approved Disk (GB)** 400

**Project Access**

Move Users to right to give them access to this project.

**Data** **Setup**

User Details | My Attributes | **My Projects**

Alan Roseman  
 Alex Carisey  
 June Finch  
 Meik Poschen  
 Mhorag Goff  
 Ricky Tsang  
 Toby Starborg  
 Tom Grahame  
 mjkpknf2

Read/Write

**Project Access** Update

Write	User
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simon Collins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary McDerby
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christoph Ballestrem
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jon Besson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clair Baldock

1 - 5

**Templates**

Template Method 1

Type Experiment

**Template Attributes** Save Add Row Delete

	Attribute Name	Attribute Default Value	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Instrument	Winfield	↑ ↓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protein		↑ ↓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comments		↑ ↓

**User defined data and templates → metadata**

# MaDAM Pilot: Data Management

The University  
Manchester

**Data** **Setup**

Home Page | Search | Calendar | Bookmarks | Feedback

Skin Analysis > Fin2a

**Project/"Folder" Data**

**Context Sensitive Actions**

**Web Explorer**

**Bulk Downloads**

**"Folder" Contents**

**Project**

**Create**

**Folder Actions**

**Notes**

**Explorer**

Project A  
Project C  
Geospatial Project  
End of Season Simulation  
Bivariate Match Odds  
Skin Analysis  
Fin2a  
Raw Data  
Analysis  
Fin2b  
Fin2c  
Fin2d  
Fin2e  
Submission A

**Quick File Upload**

Browse...

**Fin2a**

Delete Update

**Name** Fin2a

**Comments** Expt using Diazo dye for Protein X

**Owner** Simon Collins

**Create Date** 28-MAY-2010

**Status** Available

**Attributes**

Instrument Instrument A

Method Method A

Comments

1 - 3

**Add Attributes**

**Folders**

Type	Name	Date Created	Status	Owner
Folder	Raw Data	28-MAY-2010	Available	Simon Collins
Folder	Analysis	28-MAY-2010	Available	Simon Collins

1 - 2

**Files in Folder**

Delete

Select	Name	Created On	Size / MB	Version
<input type="checkbox"/>	Analysis Overview.doc	01-JUN-2010	0.02	1

**Project**

Create Project  
Project Details  
Project Template

**Create**

Create Folder  
Create Experiment  
Create Publication

**Folder Actions**

Create Note  
Email Folder Link  
Bookmark Folder  
Page Help  
Create Shortcut  
Move Folder  
Add Dataset

**Notes**

Clean Instrumen..

# MaDAM Pilot: Thumbnails

[Home Page](#) | [Search](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Bookmarks](#) | [Feedback](#)

**File List**

- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t07\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t01\_ch01.tif
- ☐ FRAPBleachSeries38.xml
- ☐ FRAPBleachSeries38\_t1\_ch01.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t19\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPBleachSeries38\_t2\_ch01.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t06\_ch01.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t15\_ch01.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t19\_ch01.tif
- ☐ FRAPPreSeries39\_t1\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t14\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t06\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPPreSeries39\_t3\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t11\_ch01.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t00\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t20\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40.xml
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t16\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t10\_ch01.tif
- ☐ FRAPb1Series40\_t17\_ch00.tif
- ☐ FRAPPreSeries39.xml

**Thumbnails - Number of Columns**

The thumbnail grid displays 15 images arranged in 3 rows and 5 columns. The images show fluorescence microscopy data of cells. The first row contains 5 thumbnails, the second row contains 5 thumbnails, and the third row contains 5 thumbnails. Each thumbnail has a timestamp in the bottom right corner, such as '24/01/2013 14:35:27'.



# MaDAM Pilot: Metadata

MANCHESTER  
1824

Search

Welcome: MSASSMP6 Meik Poschen Madam Group Logout

Data | Setup | Help

My Details

Projects

Metadata

Create / Modify Attributes

Created / Available Folder Types

Created / Available Templates

Groups I belong to

Cancel

Delete

Save

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Units	List of Values	Creator	Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical	mols	1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Country		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decay Weight		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Description		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dig Site		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Est Date		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Find Type		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Found by		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Genre		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geometric Mean		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goeyness	yucks	1 2 3	Meik Poschen	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Instrument		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Journal		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Location		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Method		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample type		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelf Level		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelf Life		1 2 3	Simon Collins	Madam Group

Help

Page Help

Folder Type

Create Type

Templates

Create Template

Group

Create Group

# MaDAM and eScholar








Manchester eScholar Services have the mission to

- “sustain and enhance the research reputations of individuals and organisations affiliated with The University of Manchester”
- “enhance the global research community's ability to access The University of Manchester's research outputs”

For the MaDAM project eScholar will

- provide a resolvable end point for publishing of data to the wider research community
- be a searchable archive for MaDAM data allowing the University to meet its retention commitments

My eScholar login

-  **store, manage and preserve** your journal articles, books, working papers and other intellectual assets in a digital form
-  **deposit fulltext files and comprehensive metadata** to maximise the impact and potential of your research findings
-  **capture/import metadata** from external databases e.g. PubMed, EndNote, Reference Manager
-  **"Lite-cite" submit** your publication details for later editing and display
-  **display and maintain a bibliography** of your publications on your personal and other websites, *coming soon!*
-  **access, cite, bookmark and share** your scholarly work, *coming soon!*
-  **create a list of publications** for a CV, a report for a funding body and other administrative tasks, *coming soon!*

# The 'Storage, Archiving, Curation' (SAC) Project (1)

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Originated from the 'Computational Science Review',  
Recommendation 6:

“Although it was beyond the scope of this review, there is a clear requirement for a University-wide strategy for data storage, archiving and curation.”

“The University IS Strategy Board should develop a strategy for data storage, archiving and curation which joins up the institutional repository with a concerted data storage and management activity.”

SAC is championed by Manchester Informatics (Mi) and the John Rylands University Library (JRUL)

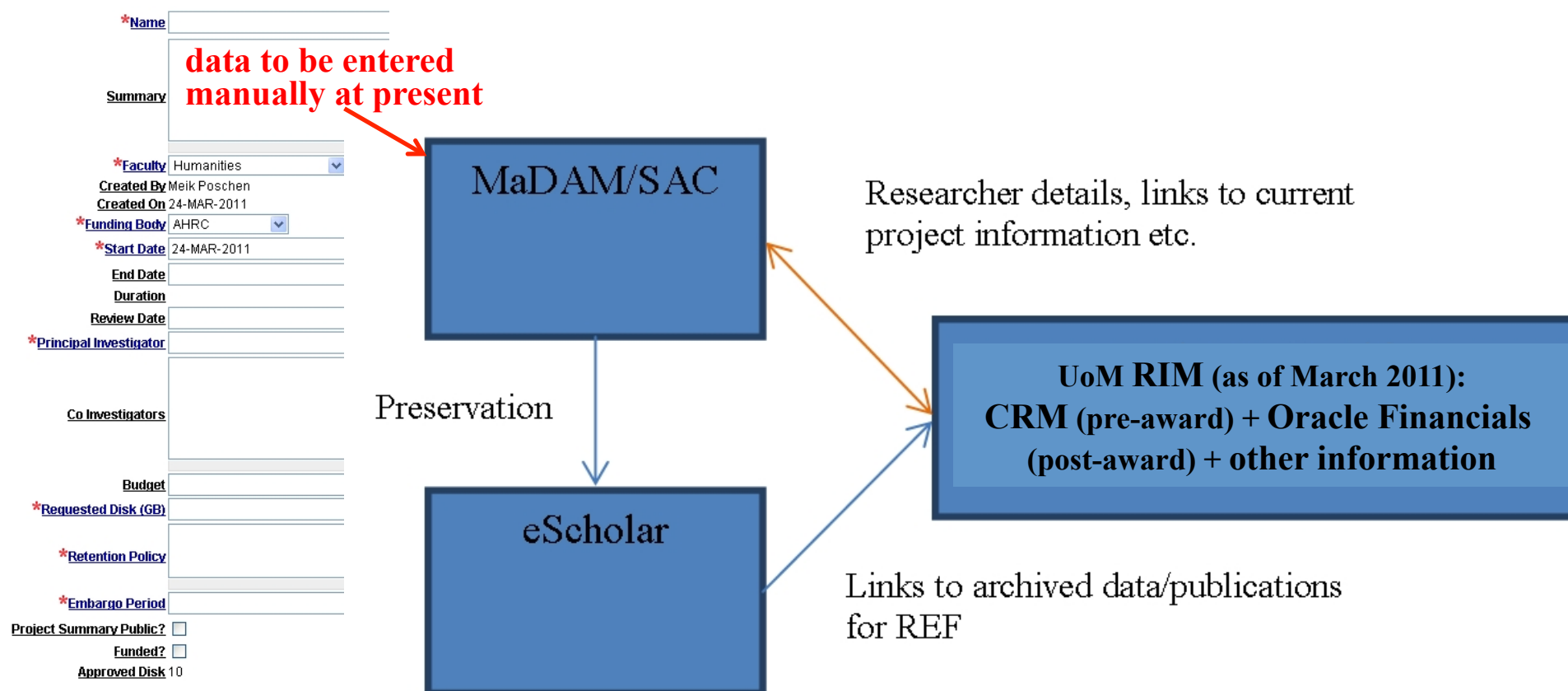
## The 'Storage, Archiving, Curation' (SAC) Project (2)

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- The SAC project has produced a proposal for a wider Research Data Management Service (RDMS) at the University of Manchester, with the aim to roll out this service incrementally, adding research groups sequentially – starting with MaDAM
- MaDAM is used as a demonstrator and its results are being fed into the SAC proposal
- This opens the possibility of a sustainability route for MaDAM after the initial project's lifetime

# Integrating Research Information Management Data

- MaDAM is currently exploring the integration of UoM RIM data (auto-retrieval)
- UoM's RIM environment itself is in the process of being linked more seamlessly



# Challenges & Observations (1)

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- Current approaches by researchers to long term preservation are underdeveloped because their basic needs for secure, trusted storage (and back-up) to support the research lifecycle are not yet being met.
- Existing institutional and faculty support for researchers, including IT Services, Research Offices and people managing the core facilities and scanners, directly and indirectly contribute to research data management. Engagement of these support structures will be essential to policy development and are critical to sustainability in terms of both buy in and the potential for capacity building in their services.

# Challenges & Observations (2)

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- **Good progress:** establishing the functional requirements for the prototype data management infrastructure & technical support and sustainability is being addressed through Cost-Benefit Analysis and financial modelling.
- **BUT:** A **cultural change** is needed for the proper support of domain specific data management plans, research practices and research management policies in general, and this, inevitably, will take time (and won't be easy!). **High level institutional support is crucial, too!**
- **Sustainability:** The MaDAM pilot will be part of the assessment of the further development of a data management and digital curation strategy for the wider University in Manchester ( 'Storage, Archiving and Curation' (SAC) proposal for a Research Data Management Service at the University of Manchester)

# Challenges & Observations (3)

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- Making the best use of pilot users' limited time
- Managing the expectations of UoM and external interested users
- Ensuring that solutions would fall inline with working practices
- Dealing with a diverse & fragmented landscape (policies, funders)
- Engagement of institutional support structures is essential
- Recognising a significant future challenge in managing storage capacity by balancing the facility to store research data centrally with initiation of a review process in which researchers will evaluate and re evaluate their data at appropriate intervals to instigate disposal of unwanted data whilst data of continuing usefulness is kept.



# Some Remarks

- There still remain open questions at this point, e.g.
  - How much storage will each research group or researcher need over what time?
  - How long has data to be kept in an active or easy accessible state for reuse or sharing?
  - How will the relationship between new policies and research practices develop?
  - How will dissemination practices and hence Scholarly Communications develop or change?
- For the bottom-up approach of MaDAM this means further observing, evaluating and documenting evolving and emerging patterns and behaviour of actual research practice.

# MiSS – MaDAM into Sustainable Service

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- The MiSS project builds on the approach and previous experience of MaDAM and runs from October 2011 to March 2013.
- It will deliver a Research Data Management Infrastructure at the University of Manchester, including a Research Data Management Policy, together with a supporting Service and the necessary human infrastructure to provide for the Research Data Management needs across the institution.
- MiSS is led by John Rylands University Library (JRUL), in collaboration with IT Services (ITS) and the Manchester eResearch Centre (MeRC), with a significant investment by the University of Manchester and JISC (JISCMRD2).

# Transition: from MaDAM to MiSS

- MaDAM has been successful in addressing the needs of its user groups and in developing a pilot infrastructure, which is live, maintained and actively utilised by its pilot user base. Madam's outputs & findings together with being part of an initiative for a sustainable University-wide Research Data Management Service helped secure funding for the successor project MiSS (MaDAM into Sustainable Service).
- MiSS will be building on the previous experience, outputs and infrastructure of MaDAM, although it is more a transitional project than a continuation which will move the pilot into a sustainable service within the University's new technical framework at the end of its lifetime in March 2013.

# Aims and User Community

## **MiSS aims at delivering a service which will include**

- 1) Rebuilding and integrating the MaDAM technical service infrastructure, making it more generic but tailorable (domain/discipline specific plug-ins/plugin points),
- 2) providing a Research Data Management Policy (incl. DMPs), along with a supporting Service, and
- 3) integrating with the necessary human infrastructure, addressing needs across UoM.

## **User community (requirements, evaluation, adoption):**

For the domain specific user community the project includes five **research groups covering all four faculties** (Academic Champions in Life Sciences, Engineering and Physical Science, Medical and Human Sciences & Humanities/applied quantitative social research).

We will furthermore set up a **user committee** open to all research disciplines at UoM to balance specific with generic needs.

# MiSS Challenges

- Bridge between and cater for generic and specific needs, making the RDML easy usable but open enough for specific tools and automated data ingestion by providing 'plug-in points'
- Integration with the Manchester Technical IT Services infrastructure, which is evolving concurrently (Manchester Working Environment, MWE)
- Balance researcher, internal and external research data management needs and policies (research cultures & work practices, University structure with research offices & faculties and funder requirements)
- Beware scope-creep and keep all stakeholders in line towards delivering a RDML Service in March 2013

# Many Thanks!

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## **MaDAM**

<http://www.merc.ac.uk/?q=MaDAM> (outputs)

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/projects/madam/>

## **MiSS**

[http://www.manchester.ac.uk/miss/  
@MISS\\_RDM](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/miss/@MISS_RDM)

Meik Poschen

meik.poschen@manchester.ac.uk

<http://www.merc.ac.uk/?q=Meik>