

# FOR RESEARCH ACTIVE STAFF

## JULY 2015 E-NEWSLETTER

Learning & Development Centre

### Research Active Staff

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## SUPPORT OVERVIEW

Learning and Development support for all Research Active Staff at Warwick focuses on five main areas:

- ⇒ Career Development
- ⇒ Enterprise & Entrepreneurship
- ⇒ Equality & Diversity
- ⇒ Leadership
- ⇒ Skills

Please contact Sandy Sparks: [Sandra.Sparks@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Sandra.Sparks@warwick.ac.uk) with any queries or to discuss your needs.

Visit the website for Research Active Staff (below) for information on current support.

## Supporting the Careers of PhD Students and Researchers

*Sharing Knowledge, Practice and Insights*, was held at the University of Warwick on Tuesday 9 June 2015, with over 60 attendees attending the AGCAS conference.

Sandy Sparks facilitated using the World Cafe protocol, details of this effective technique can be found on their website: <http://www.theworldcafe.com/>

At the conference a very useful list of free resources and website links was shared, which will be made available on our website soon: further details to follow in future newsletters.

## NEW THIS MONTH:

### Event News:

- ⇒ Women in Science: Unconscious Bias Workshop

### Support Update:

- ⇒ Research Data Management Resources
- ⇒ Leadership in Action for Researchers: update

# FOCUS ON: RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

## Research Data Management: The Essentials

In response to a request by the Research Data Management Working Group chaired by Robin Green, LDC & SCS has arranged a series of learning & development opportunities through workshops (led by Yvonne Budden, the Scholarly Communications Manager) to specifically support research active staff to understand and develop their RDM skills.

Further workshops may be available in future years but the workshops from 2014/15 were filmed and the key presentations saved as short video presentations in the Resource Bank, along with additional information and the workshop presentation files. The specific resource pages are:

[RDM: Data Management Plans](#)

[RDM: The Essentials](#)

[RDM: Tools for Data Management](#)

The library has a comprehensive website to provide support in managing research data. Click on the image to visit the site, or queries and requests for support can be addressed to: [researchdata@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:researchdata@warwick.ac.uk)

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## Leadership in Action for Researchers

The Leadership in Action programme was run at Warwick on 1, 8 & 15 June 2015. The delegates were from research, academic & teaching positions. There was an even delegate split between males and females and delegates from both science & non-science faculties.

The programme enabled research active staff to explore and develop their leadership skills. Participants had the opportunity to look at relevant theory, practice their unique leadership styles and receive coaching and feedback from their colleagues. This focus is on the individual staff and developing their skills as well as having an opportunity to learn from each other.

The programme was facilitated by Sandy Sparks with the assistance of Kate Mahoney. The programme covered:

### Session 1

⇒ Leading in a meeting

⇒ Leading strategy

### Session 2

⇒ Leading from a distance

⇒ Leading in a crisis

### Session 3

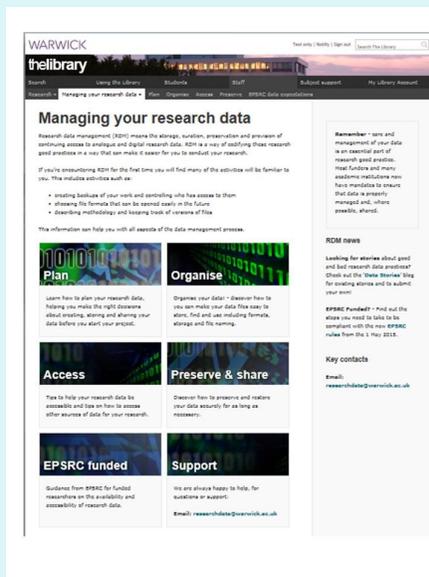
⇒ Leading to get results

⇒ Leading multi-tasks

The programme was an adaptation of the Vitae Leadership in Action programme which is supported by the Research Councils. Each delegate was asked for a word to describe the programme and the responses included:

*'Worthwhile', 'Stimulating', 'Collaborative', 'Valuable', 'Successful'*

When asked what the delegates liked about the course some quotes from the researcher active staff were:



*'I like the course spread over three weeks as it give me time to think and reflect on what I have learnt'*

*'having the opportunity to lead on projects and thus getting a feel for what it might be like to lead in reality'*

*'I like the case based learning where everybody had a chance to lead at least one of the six tasks'*

*'.. conducive to relationship building'*

*'A great opportunity to spend time with other participants from different departments in the University.'*

*'Sandy & Kate were very knowledgeable and were good at summarizing / highlighting what we should learn from the exercises and discussions.'*

*'having facilitators who know 'their stuff' and know how the University operates'*

*'.. a nice course atmosphere which encouraged participation to engage and discuss'*

During the next academic year we will be running the following Vitae leadership provisions

⇒ **Preparing for Leadership**

⇒ **Leadership in Action**

⇒ **The Collaborative Researcher**

The dates of these courses and the application process for this provision, will be launched via the e-newsletter.

## WMS Medical Statistics Book & Journal Club

The WMS Medical Statistics Book and Journal Club will be discussing “*Minimum clinically important difference*” on 14 July 2015. This is the last meeting in this academic year.

Go to <http://warwick.ac.uk/wmsbookclub> for more details and links to books and articles.

Please contact Tom at [t.hamborg@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:t.hamborg@warwick.ac.uk) if you would like to attend or be notified of future meetings.

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## How to write a blogpost from your journal article.

If you’ve ever considered blogging about your research ... or dismissed it as a waste of time ... you may be interested in reading an inciteful blog on the topic. It explores useful considerations and advice to get the most out of this digital media tool for your research. Below is an extract:

*In the digital world, academic authors now get multiple chances to create their own accessible messages. Without having to accommodate to the limited expertise or limiting agendas of journalists and broadcasters, researchers can explain directly and clearly. The logic here goes like this.*

*First get the eyeballs on your text (i.e don’t [just] solo blog). Then make your case as briefly, clearly and accessibly as you can. If the work is good, it could be retweeted, read and favoured by the right people in your research community. And from that cites will flow. If you can really do communication in an accessible way, your writing may also circulate widely in other disciplines and in the external world outside universities, enhancing your reputation there. So having explained all this to blogging sceptics, the question I ask is – ‘You’ve put eighteen months or two years of your life into doing the research in your article. You’ve devoted months more to writing the paper and sending it to journals, dealing with comments, doing rewrites and hacking through the publishing process. Why would you not spend the extra couple of hours needed now to pull out from your journal article the key bits needed for a good blogpost?’*

The full text can be found at: <https://medium.com/@write4research/how-to-write-a-blogpost-from-your-journal-article-6511a3837caa>

## Monash-Warwick Alliance Funding

**Next deadline: 9 November 2015**

The Monash Warwick Alliance encourages the development of joint research and educational collaboration between the two institutions with the aim of mutually beneficial growth in the research and teaching excellence.

The Alliance Seed Fund is available for academic staff to support the incubation of new initiatives with high potential via supported workshops/visits. The selection criteria is based on technical and strategic merit and joint capacity.

The fund can contribute support of up to a maximum of AUD 30,000 (for expenses incurred by Monash) plus £15,000 (for expenses incurred at Warwick) for new initiatives.

A minimum of two applicants from each university are required and principal applicants from both institutions should submit a single joint proposal by the next collection date on 9 November 2015.

Further details on all the funding conditions, application process and selection criteria are available on the Monash-Warwick Alliance website at:

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/monash-warwick-alliance/funding/seed\\_fund/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/monash-warwick-alliance/funding/seed_fund/)

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## Education Research Network

On Thursday 25 June 2015 Sandy Sparks led a lunchtime Learning and Development session for the Education Research Network Group on ‘Strategies for Interdisciplinary Working’.

Some of the quotes from delegates were:

*‘It was excellent! Practical and inspiring.’* Senior Research Fellow.

*‘This is a must-have A-Z for Interdisciplinary Collaboration!’* Senior Research Fellow

A session will be run on the research active staff provision next academic year.