The Data Management Engagement Award

Competition seeks to award the next big idea for engaging researchers in good RDM practices

A competition has been launched by The University of Cambridge, SPARC Europe and Jisc to elicit new and imaginative ideas for engaging researchers in the practices of good Research Data Management (RDM). This builds on the Engaging Researchers in Good Data Management Conference that took place at the University of Cambridge in November 2017. One submission will be chosen as the winner, and up to £1750 awarded to bring it to life.

The deadline for applications is noon, 31 January 2018, GMT.

Characteristics of a winning idea

As part of the goal is to encourage a global movement to engage more researchers in good data management, the winning idea should be applicable and transferable to a broad range of countries, institutions, settings and disciplines. It should also have the potential for wide impact — to engage as many people as possible in better and preferably open data management practices. (Think: ideas that have the potential to connect with large groups.) And, the idea shouldn’t require a large budget to execute, so that it is easily reusable by others.

The evaluation criteria are therefore:

- feasibility (25%)
- impact (25%)
- transferability (25%)
- value for money (25%)

Aside from this, the parameters for eligible ideas are broad so as not to restrict the community’s creativity; though the concept must focus on improving data management practices amongst researchers.

Ideas that require more than £1,750 to implement are still eligible, but please indicate how the additional funds will be obtained.
The application process

Each application should provide a maximum two-page outline of the idea and how it addresses the evaluation detailed above, and clearly specifying the beneficiaries. In addition, a timeline and budget must also be included in addition to the two page outline.

This being a competition pertaining to the “open” space, all submissions will be made public to spark and increase engagement in the competition. We will practice open submissions and evaluations by making all the submissions and our assessments of them public.

Evaluations will take place in the first quarter of 2018.

Concept launch

Plans are for the winning concept to be launched by 30 June 2018 - and draw to a close by 31 January 2019. Eventual learnings from the project will be published under an open licence (i.e. the outcomes can be freely accessed, used, modified, and shared by anyone for any purpose).

Submissions should be emailed to info@sparceurope.org.

Note: we reserve the right to re-open the competition if necessary

Questions? Please contact info@sparceurope.org. And remember: the deadline is 31 January 2018.