Data Audit Framework

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e-Science Collaborative Workshop, Sheffield

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The problem

How can organisations realise the value of their research data assets when it is unclear:

- what data is held;
- where it is located;
- and how it is being managed?

Data Audit Framework

A recommendation

"JISC should develop a Data Audit Framework to enable all universities and colleges to carry out an audit of departmental data collections, awareness, policies and practice for data curation and preservation"

Liz Lyon, Dealing with Data: Roles, Rights, Responsibilities and Relationships, (2007)

Data Audit Framework

Scope of work

- DAF Development Project

  (HATII, University of Glasgow; King's College London; University of Edinburgh; UKOLN, University of Bath)

- Four pilot implementation projects
  - University of Edinburgh
  - King's College London
  - Imperial College London
  - University College London

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The methodology

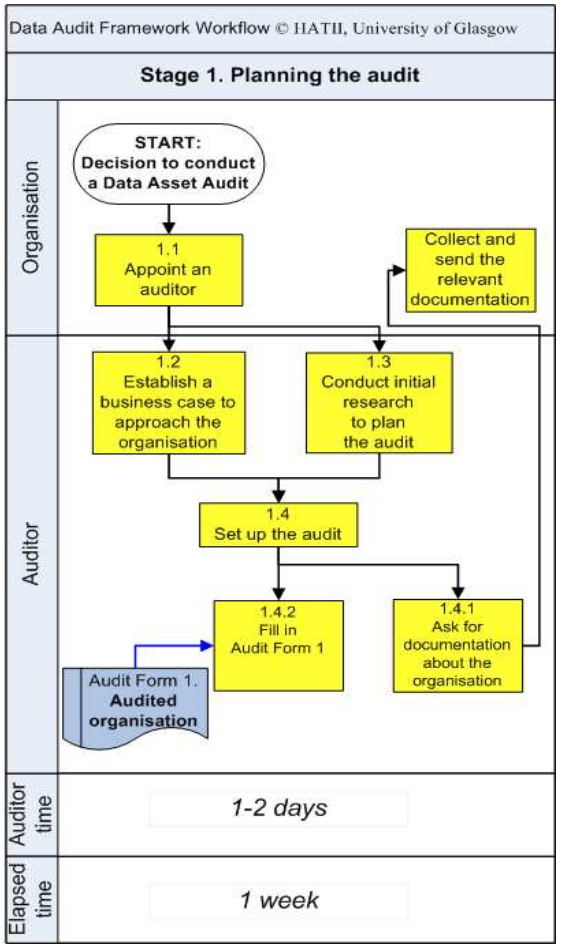
http://www.data-audit.eu/DAF_Methodology.pdf

Data Audit Framework

Stage 1: planning

- Define expected outcomes
- Research organisational context
- Set up interviews

Prepare in advance to optimise time with staff



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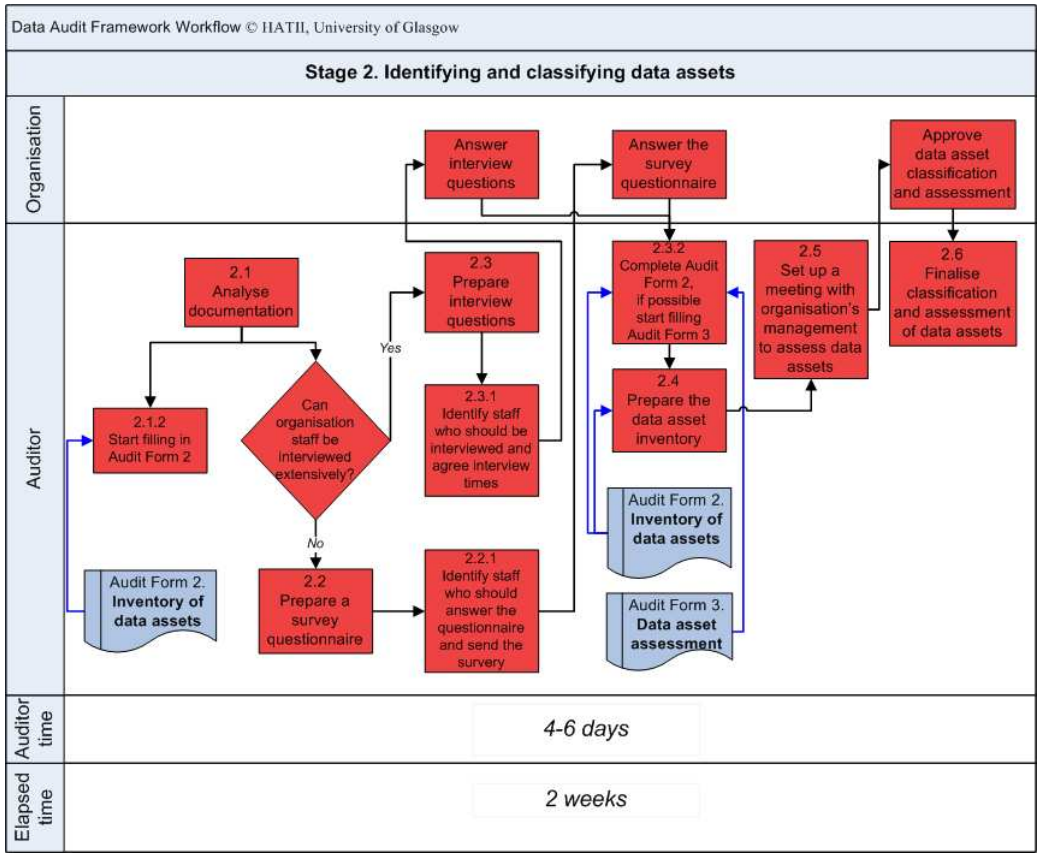
Stage 2: identifying

- Identify and classify assets
- Interviews, questionnaires, research

Create an inventory



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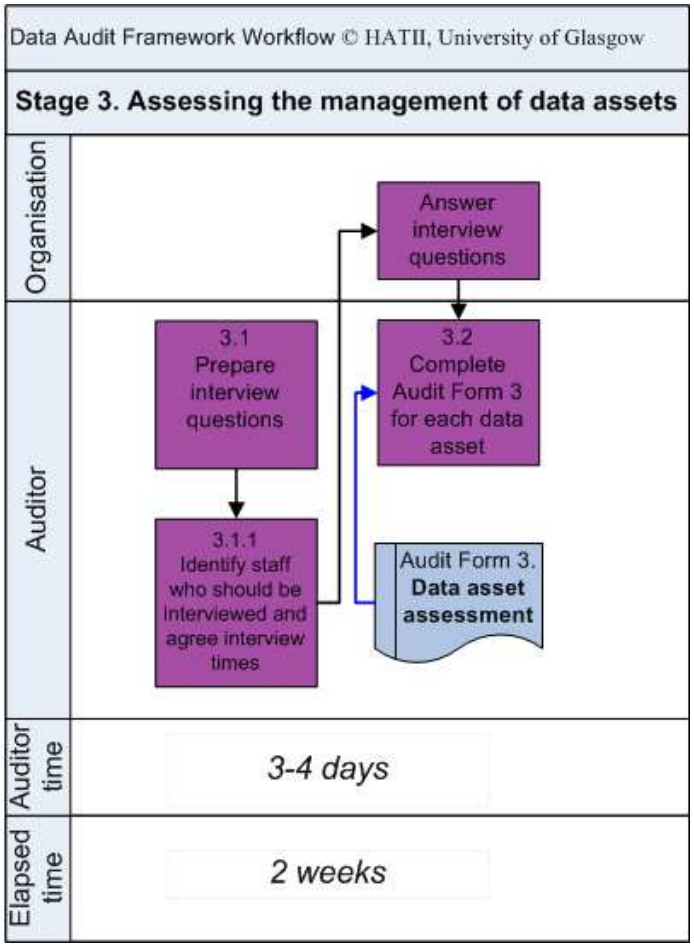
Stage 3: assessing

- Assess most crucial assets to organisation
- Consider access, reuse, and data management

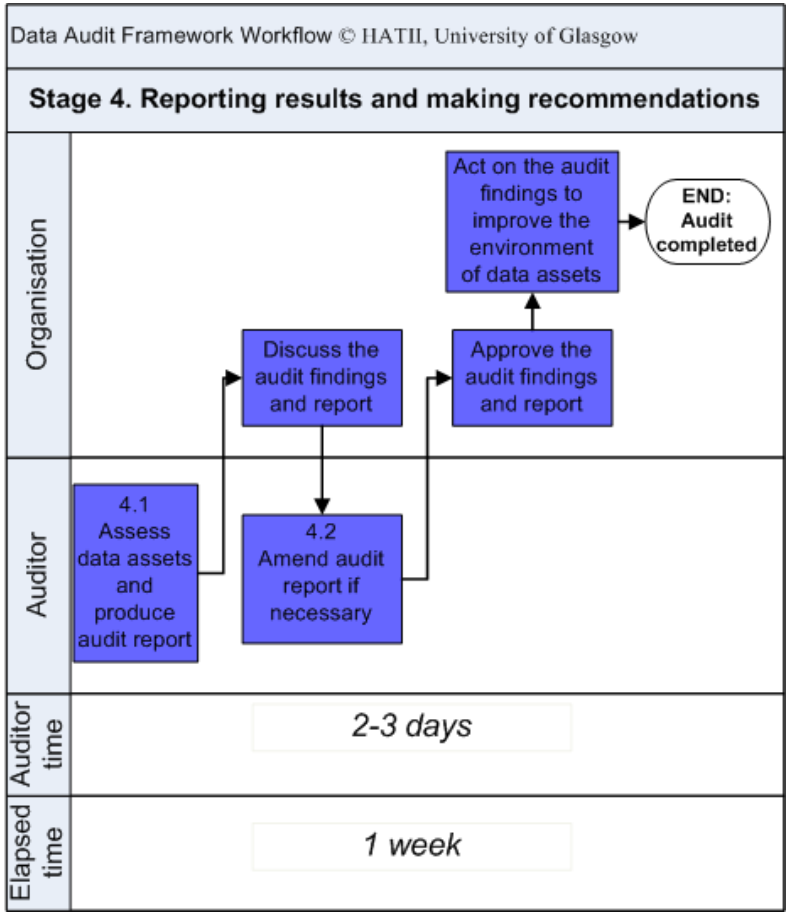
Identifying weaknesses and risks



Stage 4: recommendations

- Collate audit results
- Analyse data

Recommend changes to improve data management



Data Audit Framework

Pilot audits

- School of GeoSciences at University of Edinburgh
- Innovative Design and Manufacturing Research Centre (IdMRC) at University of Bath
- Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD)

Data Audit Framework

Broad findings

- Lots of data being created
- Few policies for data creation and management
- Researchers unsure where to begin
- Unaware of available support
- Often no place of deposit or funds for preservation

International Journal of Digital Curation
http://www.ijdc.net/

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Online tool: audit stages

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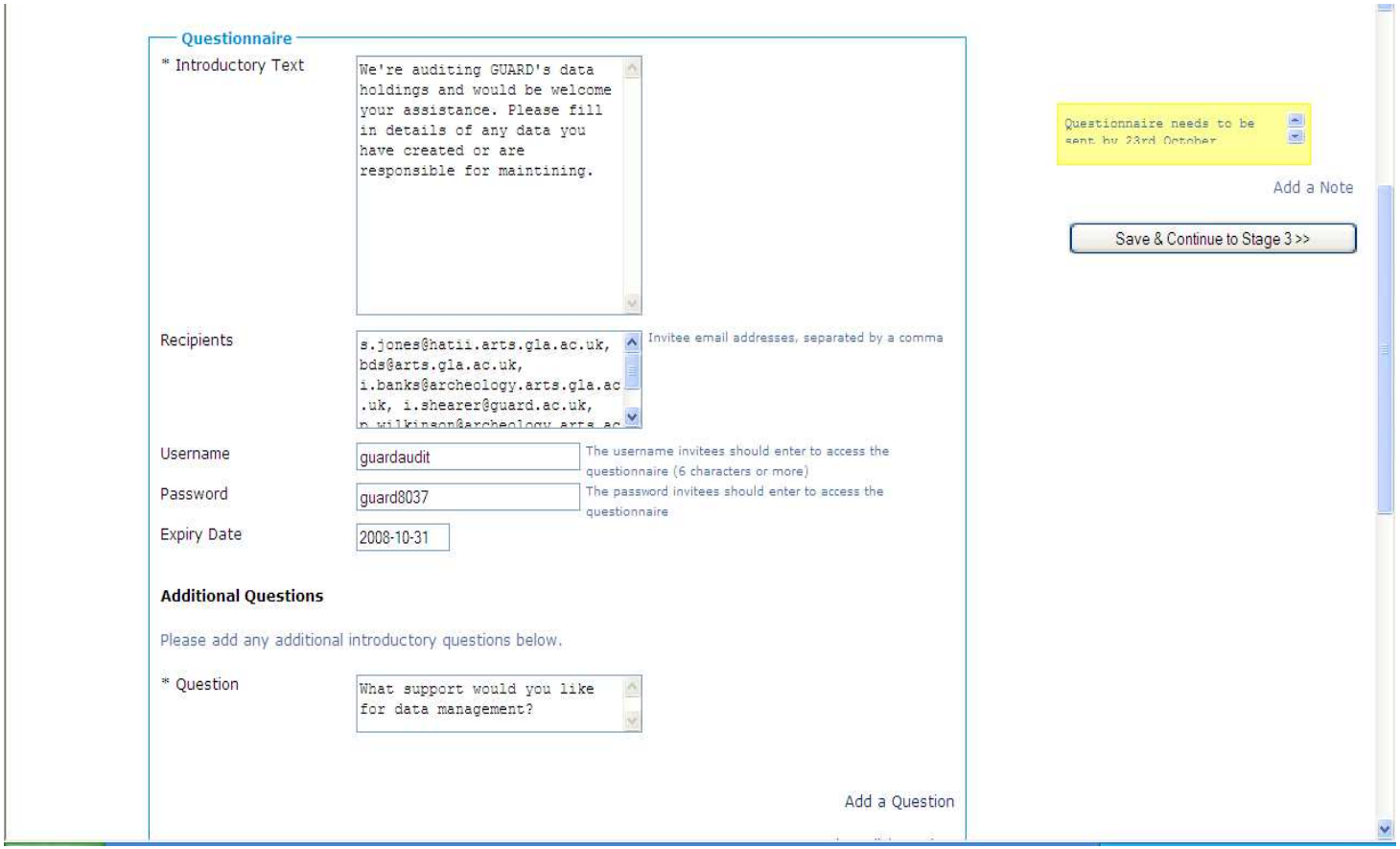
Online tool: questionnaire



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Future work

- Implementation projects → redevelopment
- Support and training – next course at IDCC
- Results feed into other data research
  - UKRDS, Data Skills study
  - DCC policy study
  - Glasgow and Edinburgh University curation strategy

Data Audit Framework

Further information

- DAF workshop at IDCC, 1 December, Edinburgh
  http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2008/programme/
- Presentations, papers, methodology… online
  http://www.data-audit.eu
- Sarah Jones s.jones@hatii.arts.gla.ac.uk

Thank you! Any questions?

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