

Development of a culture on Research Data Management: experiences from the international RDMS-LatAm Project

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RDMS-LatAm: Development of a Strategy for Research Data Management in Higher Education and Scientific Institutions within the Latin American context.

An initiative that has brought together 4 Latin-American universities



Universidad Central “Marta Abreu” de Las Villas



Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos



UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA
BOLIVIANA



RDMS-LatAm Aim: To develop capacities to adopt good practices on Research Data Management in the Latin American context.

Actions of RDMS-LatAm have allowed the development of 4 lines of work:

1-Diagnosis on RDM practices

2-Policies for the RDM development

3-Training of teachers, researchers, librarians and managers in relation to RDM

4-Establishment of collaborative networks.

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Diagnosis on RDM practices

A sample of Researchers/Professors and Decision Makers from each university

Questionnaire for
professors/researchers
developed by VLIR

UCLV	CUB	320
UNMSM	PER	119
UCB	BOL	49
UCfgos	CUB	169

Questionnaire for decision
makers developed
by VLIR

UCLV	CUB	112
UNMSM	PER	23
UCB	BOL	25
UCfgos	CUB	25

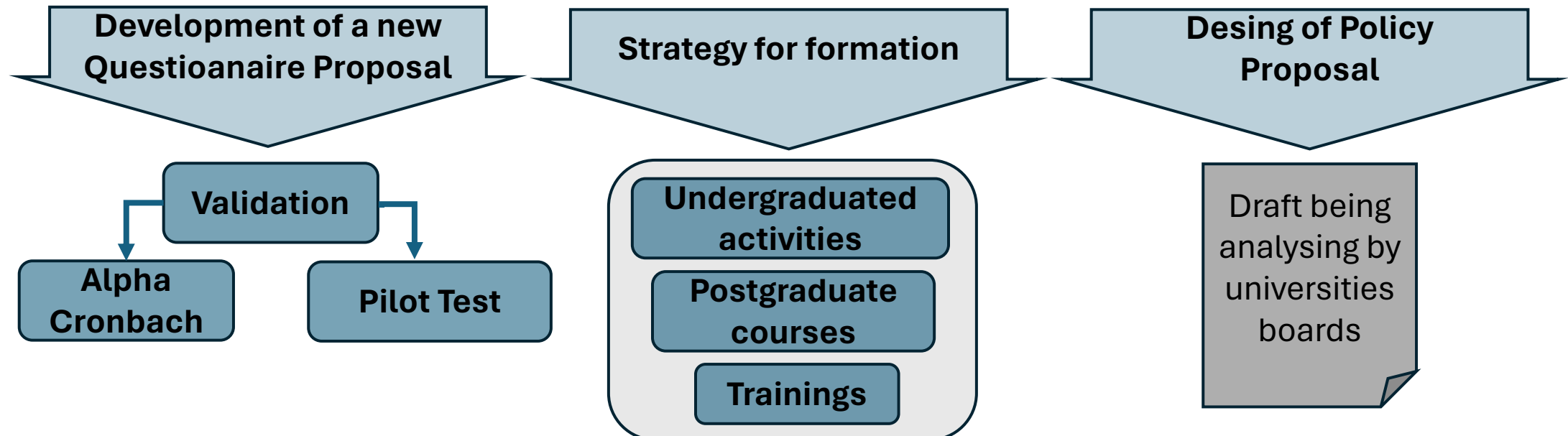
Results

Main Diagnosis Results:

- The most used data are those **generated by the researchers themselves** (45,05 %) and those **available from public institutions**.
- There were **no major differences** between the use of **qualitative** or **quantitative** data.
- The most used digital data formats being **text documents** (PR 27.19 % and DM 84.78 %), **spreadsheets** (PR 18.09 % and DM 72.28 %) and **Graphics/Images** (PR 16.42 % and DM 60.33 %).
- **Personal computer is the primary means of data storage**, even when the institution has cloud services.
- **17.05 %** of the Researchers/Professors **do not back up their data** with backup copies, **44.90 %** do so only **partially**.
- **35.92 %** of Researchers/Professors **have ever suffered massive loss of research data**.
- **73.37 %** recognized that in their institutions each researcher is **responsible for archiving their own data**.
- 46.2 % stated that in their universities **young researchers** do **not receive** any preparation about how to handle RD
- The main channels for data exchange were **E-mail (38,03 %)** and devices such as **USB sticks and external disks (30,28 %)**
- Data exchange was developed mainly between researchers from the **national and international scientific community**.
- **No university in this study has an official policy or standards for RDM.**

Diagnosis General Summary

- Inefficient and ineffective management of Research Data leading to loss of Research Data.
- Lack of policies and standards for RDM.
- Lack of an infrastructure that allows for adequate IDM.N
- Need to develop and validate an instrument to diagnose RDM practices more adapted to the Latin American environment.



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Content of RDM Policy Proposal

- Introduction
- Definition
- Scope
- Aims
- FAIR principles
- Research Data Plan
- Metadata and Data Documentation
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Intellectual Property about Research Data



- These proposals were approved by the Scientific Committees of UCLV and UCfgos and are being discussed by the Administrative Boards for their implementation as an institutional legal regulation.
- Ministry of Higher Education of Cuba approved a resolution recognizing Data Management as a key element in Information and Scientific Knowledge Management.

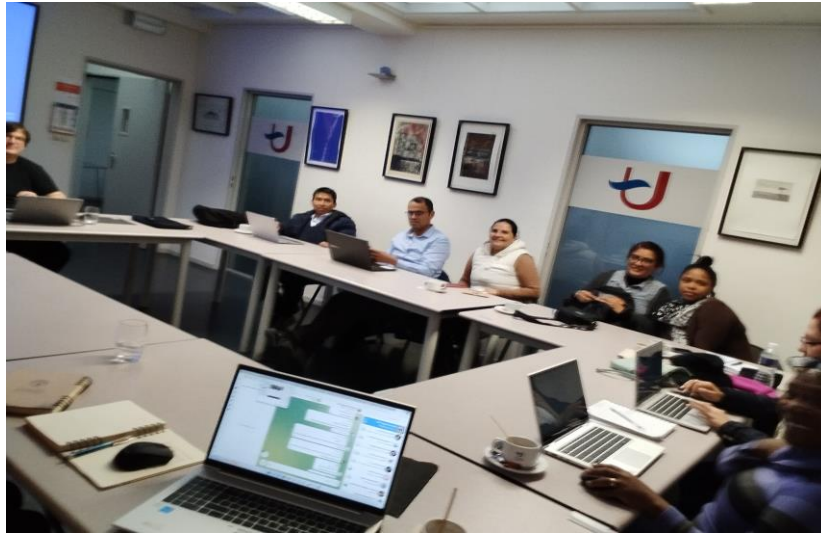
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Strategy for formation about RDM

Specialists from Cuba, Peru and Bolivia being trained by RDM ´s Teams from VLIR universities (February 2023)



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Strategy for formation about RDM

Undergraduated activities

A course on RDM is given at UCLV to students of the Information Sciences degree program.

Posgraduate Activities

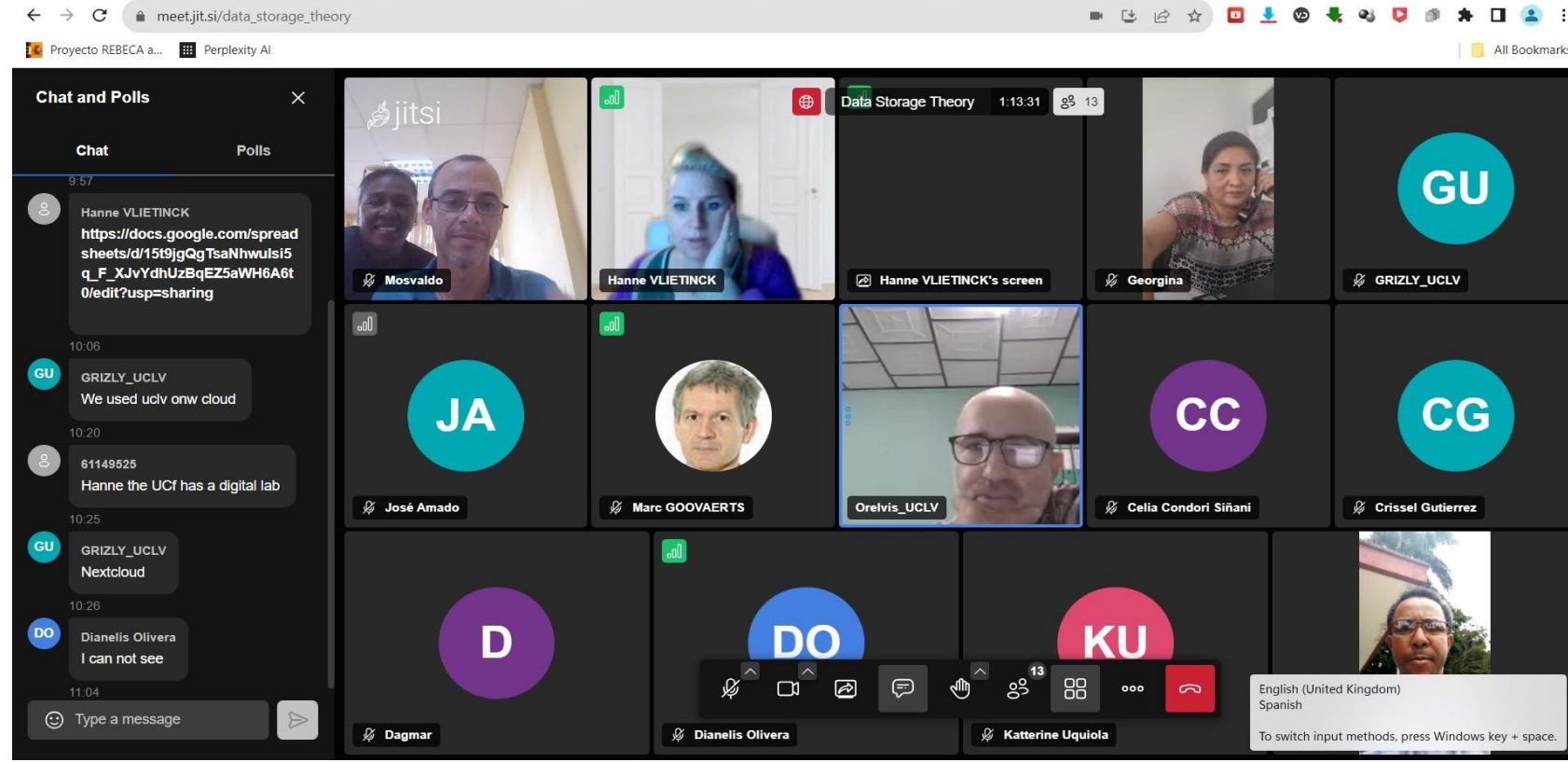
A RDM course as part of the Master Program “Information and Knowledge for Development” at UCLV

Trainings

Online Training Sessions about RDM with the support of Hasselt University RDM team, for researchers, professors and decision from RDMS-LatAm universities and other institutions interested about RDM in Cuba, Peru and Bolivia.



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Collaboration with other institutions



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Peru



Cuba



Cuba



Cuba



Cuba



Cuba



Cuba

This collaboration has allowed the participation of specialists from other institutions in RDM trainings, as well as the development of new national project proposals to further develop RDM.

Conclusions

Research Data Management has been established as one of the pillars for the development of Open Science, sustainability, reproducibility and verifiability of research activity in general. The preservation and socialization of DIs drives the genesis of new projects and scientific collaboration.

International collaborative projects are a viable alternative for the development of open science initiatives and especially for those oriented towards research data management. They enable access to funding and the creation of collaborative networks.

RDMS-LatAm is the first initiative of its kind in Cuba, Bolivia and Peru, contributing to the development of a culture of IDM among the scientific community of these nations.

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