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Overview

• Two sessions:
  – First session - overview & BP, PP or EBPs group activity
    • Introduction and background
    • What is best practice(s)?
    • Why best practices? ETD Practitioners' Community Best Practices?
  – Second session – group activity
    • RDM Best Practices Framework (institutional data); key questions?
    • Next steps
First session: Introduction and Background

• Apologies!

• Austin, TX workshop and conversation on ETD management systems – proprietary v non-proprietary
First Session: Best practice(s)?

• Best Practice:
  – Best – “better than all others in quality or value”
  – Practice – “to do something again and again in order to become better at it” *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*
  – Best practice...that which leads to better ‘quality’ or ‘value’ when done or performed repeatedly.

  **Best... what is ‘best’ anyways?**

• Related terms:
  – Promising practices (PP)
  – Evidence-based practices (EBP)
  – Smart practices (SP)
  – Good practices (GP)

  *semantics or real differences?*
First Session: Best practice(s)?

**Research Validated Best Practice**

A program, activity or strategy that has the highest degree of **proven effectiveness** supported by objective and comprehensive research and evaluation.

**Field Tested Best Practice**

A program, activity or strategy that has been **shown to work effectively** and produce successful **outcomes** and is supported to some degree by subjective and objective **data** sources.

**Promising Practice**

A program, activity or strategy that has **worked within one organization** and shows **promise** during its early stages for becoming a best practice with long term sustainable impact. A promising practice must have some objective basis for claiming effectiveness and must have the potential for replication among other organizations.

First session: Why best practices?

• Purpose:
  – Internal - core community values
  – External - legal defense (Fair Use Best Practices)

• BPs reflects (community) values!

• Values reflect community – sense of community...

**ETD Practitioners‘ Best Practices?**

• *Top-down or down-up approach?*
  • *PP, EPB, SP or GP?*
End of First Session – Group activities

• **Group Activities: RDM Best Practices Framework** (institutional data)
  – What are the current practices in managing research data associated with ETDs?
  – Unique features of ETD research data?
  – Are there any emerging [best] practices in USETDA member institutions, whether research-validated practices, field-tested practices or promising practices?
  – What is the future of ETDs and data management?
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Session 2: Exercise

Group 1: Reporting of RDM Best Practices Framework
Examples of RDM Best Practices

UC Santa Cruz – *GD/PP*:
- File Naming & Organization
- Metadata & Documentation
- File Formats
- Get Credit
- Storage & Backups
- Copyright and Intellectual Property
- Confidentiality and Privacy

[http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/data management/bestpractices]

Boston College – *GD/PP*:
- The Data Management Plan
- Data Storage
- Data Documentation
- Ethical Issues
- Sharing Data

[http://libguides.bc.edu/dataplan/best_practices]
Examples of RDM BPs...

- Educopia Institute, **EBP/SP:**
  - Copyright
  - Data organization
  - File format
  - Metadata
  - Storage
  - Version control

[https://educopia.org/deliverables/etdplus-guidance-briefs]

DataOne Best Practices: **EBP/SP:**

https://www.dataone.org/best-practices
Next steps – discussions

• Between now and ETD2017 Symposium:
  – RDM BP or other areas? Which ones?
  – RDM BP – adopt or reinventing the wheel?
  – Project (team) -based approach?

• ETD2017 Symposium and Beyond
  – Finalize BPs – community document of BPs?
  – Realistic goal?
  – Leadership?
End

Questions? Suggestions?