Research data management courses:
an overview and gap analysis for the Netherlands

https://dataverse.nl/dataverse/RDM_Courses_NL

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Cooperating nationally on RDM courses

The Dutch consortium of University Libraries and the National Library of the Netherlands (UKB) makes an effort to facilitate knowledge sharing between institutions. As part of this, its working group Research Data has created an overview of 16 RDM courses from universities/organisations across the Netherlands. The overview provides information about the courses together with any provided course materials.
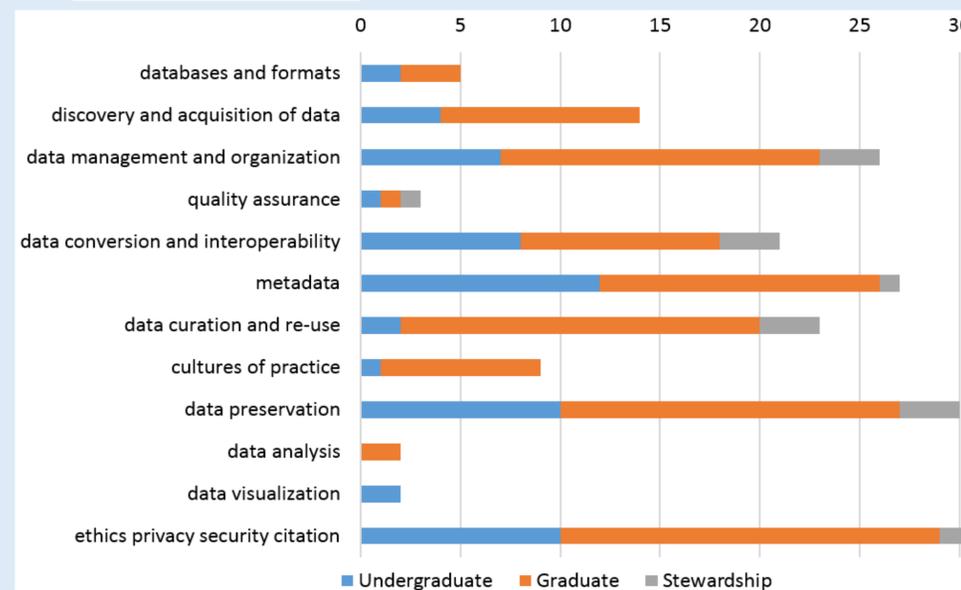
The course overview:

- enables universities to find courses by various characteristics, such as the competencies taught, and to re-use the materials
- sheds light on current trends in RDM courses in the Netherlands
- helps to identify gaps and determine what courses and materials are to be developed

Methodology

- The UKB group asked its network of Dutch universities for information about their RDM course(s). 11 institutions/organisations filled in the online information sheet on the website of the National Coordination Point RDM.
- The *Data Information Literacy Competences Matrix* by Purdue University (Nelson, S., & Megan, R., 2016) was used as a framework for the information sheet. This matrix lists RDM competences areas (e.g. quality assurance, data visualisation, etc.) across three levels (undergraduate, graduate, and senior).
- Eight institutions/organisations also shared their course materials (slides etc.) in the online environment.

Excerpt of Data Literacy learning goals

Results

Characteristics of the 16 courses:

14 PhDs	2 staff
12 instructions and tutorials	4 lectures
5 1-4 hrs.	5 5-10 hrs.	6 >10 hrs.
10 also for externals	6 only for internals
12 mixed disciplines	4 one discipline
8 CC-BY	5 no licence	3 own licence
14 free	2 paid

RDM courses (N=16) at Dutch institutions/organisations: Levels by competence area

Legend: Undergraduate, Graduate, Stewardship

Competence areas: databases and formats; discovery and acquisition of data; data management and organization; quality assurance; data conversion and interoperability; metadata; data curation and re-use; cultures of practice; data preservation; data analysis; data visualization; ethics privacy security citation

Trends

- More general than disciplinary courses
- Mostly aimed at PhDs
- Little data analysis competencies taught
- Gap analysis depends on goals

Next steps

- Inviting more contributions to the overview, together with the National Coordination Point RDM
- Finding a suitable, publically accessible online environment for future sharing, preferably a shared Open Educational Resource Repository
- Performing a qualitative analysis of the courses covered

Nelson, M. S. (2016). Scaffolding for data management skills: From undergraduate education through postgraduate training and beyond. Purdue University Research Repository. doi:10.4231/R7QJ7F9R .
Retrieved January 18, 2018.