CASE STUDY: Building an Effective Data Stewardship Organization

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Agenda

• About Stanford

• Key Factors in Effective Stewardship

• Stewardship Challenges

• Stewardship Solutions

• Overall Strategies
About Stanford

• One of the world’s leading teaching and research universities

• $4.8 billion operating budget

• $18.7 billion endowment

• 2,000 faculty

• 12,000 staff

• 16,000 students

Photo by: Hammerin Man
Key Factors in Effective Stewardship

Participation
• Consistency
• Breadth

Coordination
• Aligning people, projects, and content

Resources
• People
• Capabilities
Stewardship Challenges
Stewardship Challenges

A. Over-dependence on central resources

B. Managing metadata where ownership is complex
Stewardship Challenges

C. Lack of broad, consistent engagement

D. Integration across initiatives and functional areas
Stewardship
Solutions
1. Scope initiatives carefully

• Integrate stewardship into funded projects
• Identify specific deliverables
• Be realistic about resource requirements
2. Reward engagement

Thank you!
Stewardship Solutions

3. Demonstrate progress

- Identify key metrics
- Set specific goals
- Share results broadly
4. Supplement with side projects
5. Establish appropriate standards

• Organizational structures and processes
• Metadata content
• Data element name structure
6. Convene a steering committee
Stewardship Solutions

7. Upgrade your tooling
Overall Strategies

Start with available technology and volunteers

Embrace opportunities for expansion and change

Do whatever it takes to increase engagement
Evolution of Focus

Participation → Coordination → Resources
Discussion