Keeping Everyone On The Same Page

IR and Data Stewardship

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Outline

What is data stewardship?
(and why does it matter to IR?)

Examples:
• The ‘faculty placemat’
• Race/ethnicity reporting
• Developing a data dictionary
What is data stewardship?

Data governance is the formalizing of behavior around the definition, production and usage of data to manage risk and improve the quality and usability of the selected data.

*Non-Invasive Data Governance*, Robert Seiner, TDAN

Data stewardship is an approach to data governance that formalizes accountability for managing information resources on behalf of others and for the best interests of the organization.

*Executing Data Quality Projects*, Danette McGilvray
What is data stewardship?

Understanding about your data:

**What is it?**
- Name
- Definition
- Examples
- Derivation

**Whose is it?**
- Responsible
- Accountable
- Consulted
- Informed

**How does it behave?**
- Quality
- Usage
- Context
- History

Investing time in answering these questions can provide a valuable foundation for IR.
Example 1: The faculty placemat

Challenges

“How many faculty do we have?”

- Lecturers
- Visitors
- Clinicians
- Emeriti
- Fellows

Tenure line

Academic Council
Example 1: The faculty placemat

...so we made this.
Example 1: The faculty placemat

Process

Start with policy and data

Draft something

Review with stakeholders (clean up data along the way)
Example 1: The faculty placemat

Value to IR

- Increased consistency
- Increased understanding
- Faster decision-making (less wheel-reinvention)

Useful at all stages:
- Clarifying data requests
- Considering options (and consequences)
- Explaining definitions used in reporting
Example 2: Race/ethnicity reporting

Challenges

2010 federal reporting changes

• The data look different now...what does that mean?

Richer available data

• With more options for how to aggregate... how to decide?
Example 2: Race/ethnicity reporting

Process

Working group of interested stakeholders

- Describe current practices
- Identify key questions
- Develop a packet of recommendations, supporting documentation
Example 2: Race/ethnicity reporting

What we’ve learned (so far)

People really do want to:

• Understand their data
• Use it consistently
• Work hard to make this happen
Example 3: Data dictionary

Challenges

Major university BI reporting initiative

Goal: Define all elements

HR: 30

Research: 60

Student: 400

Finance: 500(+)

Goal: Define all elements

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Research: 60

Student: 400

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Interlude: KFP’s background
Example 3: Data dictionary

Approach

SUDS-FIN, SUDS-HR, SUDS-SPO, SUDS-STU

• Data stewardship coordinator
• Project staff
• Broad, cross-functional working groups
• Final signoff
Example 3: Data dictionary

Value to IR

Understand data from multiple perspectives

Central repository of verified information

(and better data infrastructure)
Key benefits of DS efforts for IR

• Easier access to information; less reliance on ‘oral tradition’

• Improved data quality, consistency

• Increased understanding, thoughtful decision-making around data
Questions?

Dick discovers why it's not always easy being a business analyst.

So I understand you need a horse.

That's right, a horse, right away.

But you don't need to ride it.

Of course not. I said I need a horse.

And it should have horns, and you're going to need to milk it.

What are you, a halfwit? What else would I do with a horse?

I'll see what I can do.