

## Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start

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### ABSTRACT / INTRODUCTION

Subject Librarians have many topics they use to engage with postgraduate students. They discuss search strategies, databases, bibliographic management software, interloans, purchasing books, and publishing strategies to name a few. At the University of Otago, Subject Librarians have also moved to include another topic in their conversations with postgraduate students – data management.

Recently, at two postgraduate events, data management was included in Library presentations. The first was a student initiated writing retreat for Anthropology and Archaeology students. The second was a Library-led postgraduate workshop introducing key library services and resources. At each of these events, data management was explicitly addressed and the Library's new Data Management Plan Tool showcased.

This presentation is a critical reflection on those events. It will highlight the kinds of questions novice researchers ask about data management and contemplate what this tells us about how novice researchers learn and understand research data management. Importantly, it will highlight how Otago's Data Management Plan is not just a research management tool but a powerful learning tool. Finally it will use the ZePA\* model to highlight the importance of engaging with postgraduate students as the beginning step to developing a culture of research data management best practice.

\* Higgins, R & Rewi, P. ZePA – Right-shifting: Reorientation Towards Normalisation. In R. Higgins, P. Rewi and V. Olsen-Reeder (eds.) Te Hua O Te Reo Māori: Māori Language Act or Action. Wellington: Huia Publishers.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR(S)

Shiobhan Smith, Research Services Librarian

In October 2017 Shiobhan joined the University of Otago Library's Research Support Unit as a Research Services Librarian. Prior to this Shiobhan worked as a Subject Librarian also at

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the University of Otago. In the Subject Librarian position Shiobhan played a central role in the development of the Library's new Data Management Planning tool through her liaison with Centre for Sustainability researchers who acted as consultants and user testers on the project.