

What our researchers want

James A J Wilson, OUCS

Thursday 12th January 2012

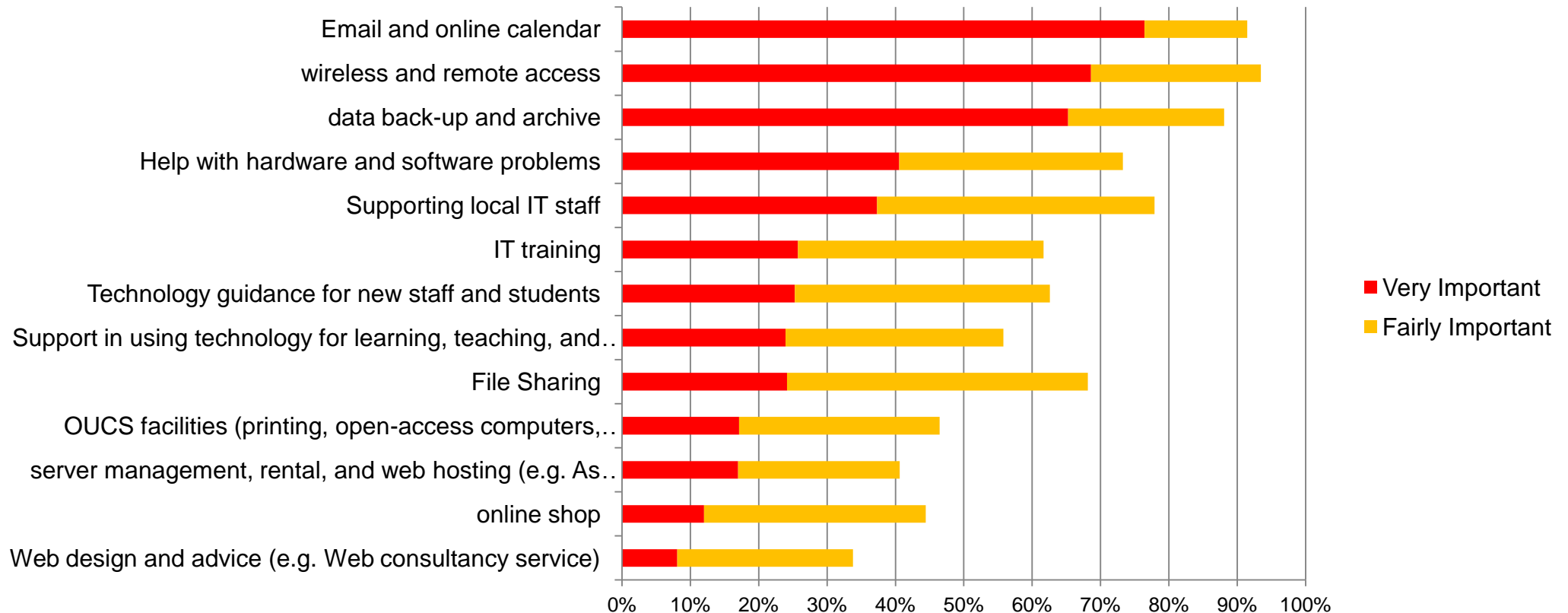
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What our researchers want – survey responses

Thinking about the different areas that OUCS offers services in, please indicate how important these are for your work



What our researchers want and what they need: Research Data Management

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What is meant by Research Data Management?

- Secure long-term storage and access to data
- Organising one's data so that it is easy to find and retrieve when needed
- Ensuring information is in a suitable format to be usefully analysed
- Ensuring research data can be shared and re-used, either by others or by oneself later in one's career
 - Some sort of documentation usually required to aid understanding
- In some cases, providing the means to check or reproduce research results
- Scope of 'data' may vary

Drivers of change

- Research councils
 - Expectations that publicly-funded research should be publicly available
 - Encourages verifiable, provenanced high-quality research
- Universities
 - Desire to know potential value of data
 - Reputation management
- REF
 - Sharing data may help support 'impact' claims
 - Uncertainty over recognition of data outputs
- Legislation
 - Requirements of (and protection against) FOI requests
- Publishers
 - Publishing data behind research adds value and ensures academic standards
- Researchers themselves
 - Can do interesting research by combining data sources

What researchers think when they think about data management



'I get credit for publishing papers, not data'

'I'd be happy to share my data'
(in theory)



'In my discipline it's standard practice
to share one's data with the community'

'I just don't have any time to
spend on data management'



'I don't think my funders have
a policy on data management'



It's my data, I spent a lot of time
gathering it, and I don't want
anyone beating me to publication!

'I don't work with data'



Comments from the OUCS survey

Q9. What improvements or new services you would like to see in IT provision which are not currently offered:



It is difficult for postdocs leaving the University to have their [email] account extended after the end of their contract. Yet it is necessary, since we don't always have all the answers for our publications and we often have to access our data to review the papers...



'Facility for sharing large files with co-workers outside University.'

'Archival of large datasets'



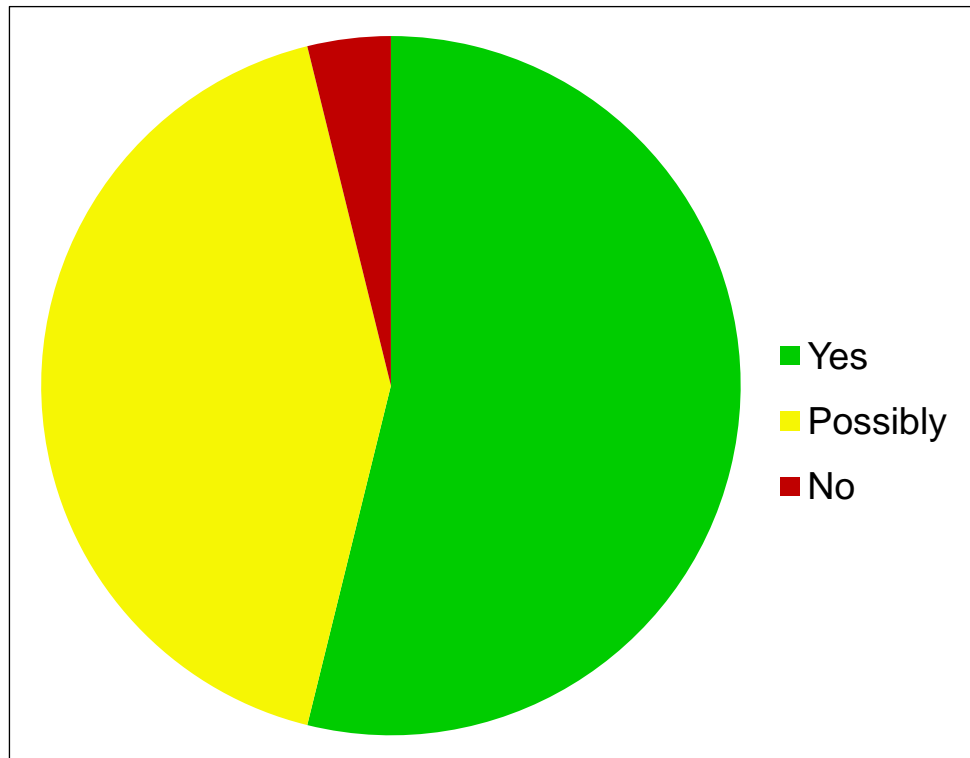
'Better support for research projects, development of new resources'

'Possibly a large-scale (multi-petabyte) data archive'

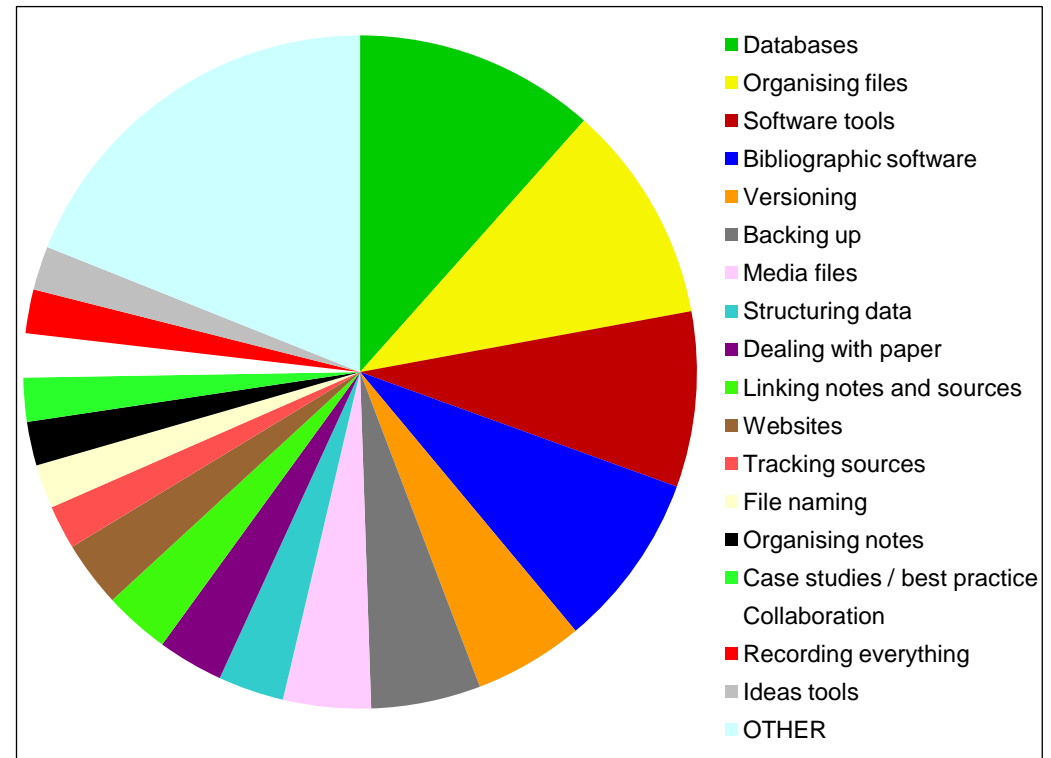


Demand for data management training

Is there a need for data management training?



What should this training cover?



Data Management Challenges

- Engage researchers
- Ensure service providers (Computing Services, Libraries, Research Services, Academic Divisions) are working together in a coordinated manner
- Extract value from data and ensure it can be re-used.

Must be:

- documented
- preserved
- curated
- citable
- done extremely cheaply

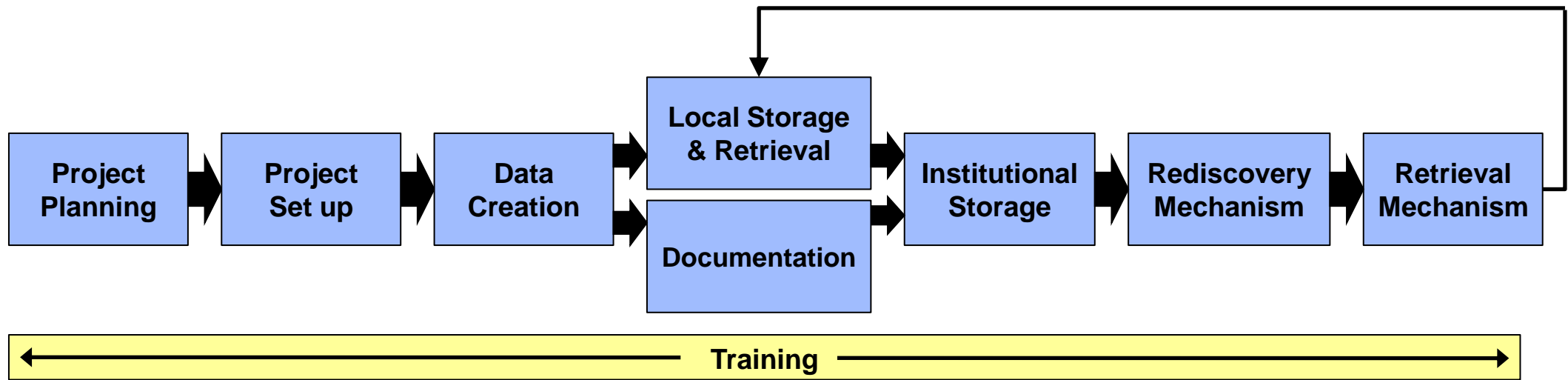
What is being done about it?

- Central UK funding from JISC and HEFCE
- Lots of training, mostly focussed on graduates
- Digital Curation Centre tools, such as DMP Online
- Dryad, & other projects (supporting data publishing)
- Funding Councils paying more attention to data management plans
 - Most now have policies
 - EPSRC placing requirements on institutions rather than researchers
 - Starting to take plans more seriously

What are we doing about it?

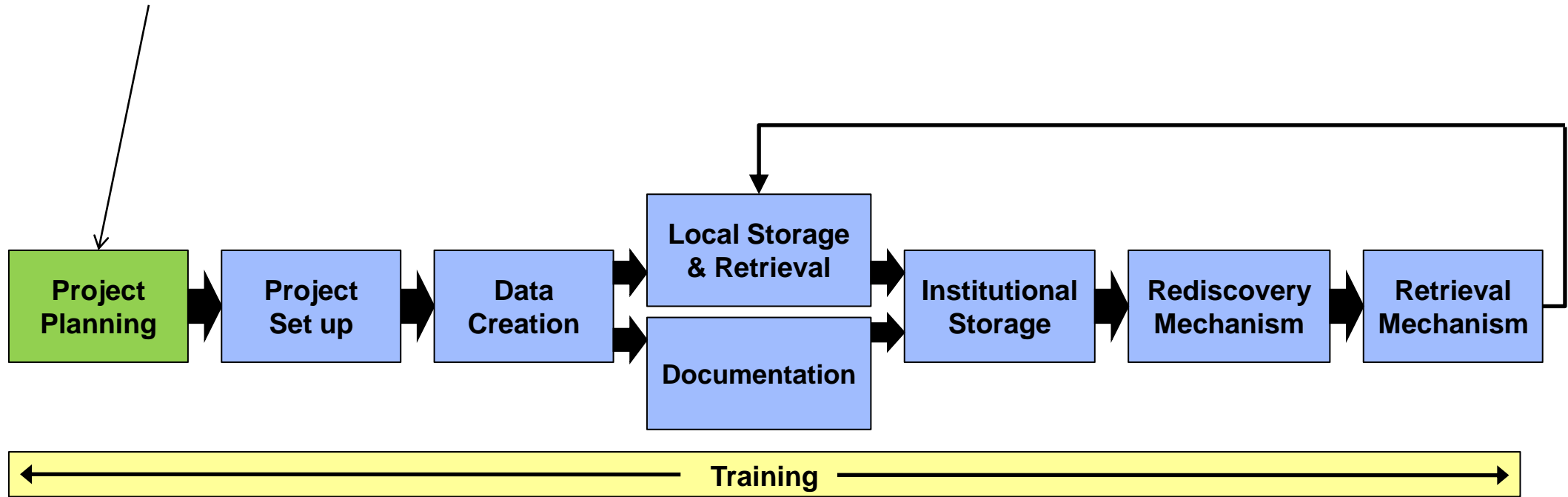
- Series of projects, including Eidcsr, Sudamih, VIDaaS and DaMaRO
- Data management portal set up with Research Services
- Humanities & Social Sciences divisions interested in data management training
- Zoology Department creating 'DataFlow' tool
- OUCS Development of a Database as a Service (DaaS) tool
 - Online Research Database Service (ORDS) to be launched in April
- Integration of tools and services with Bodleian's DataBank and 'DataFinder' systems

Research Data Management Interventions

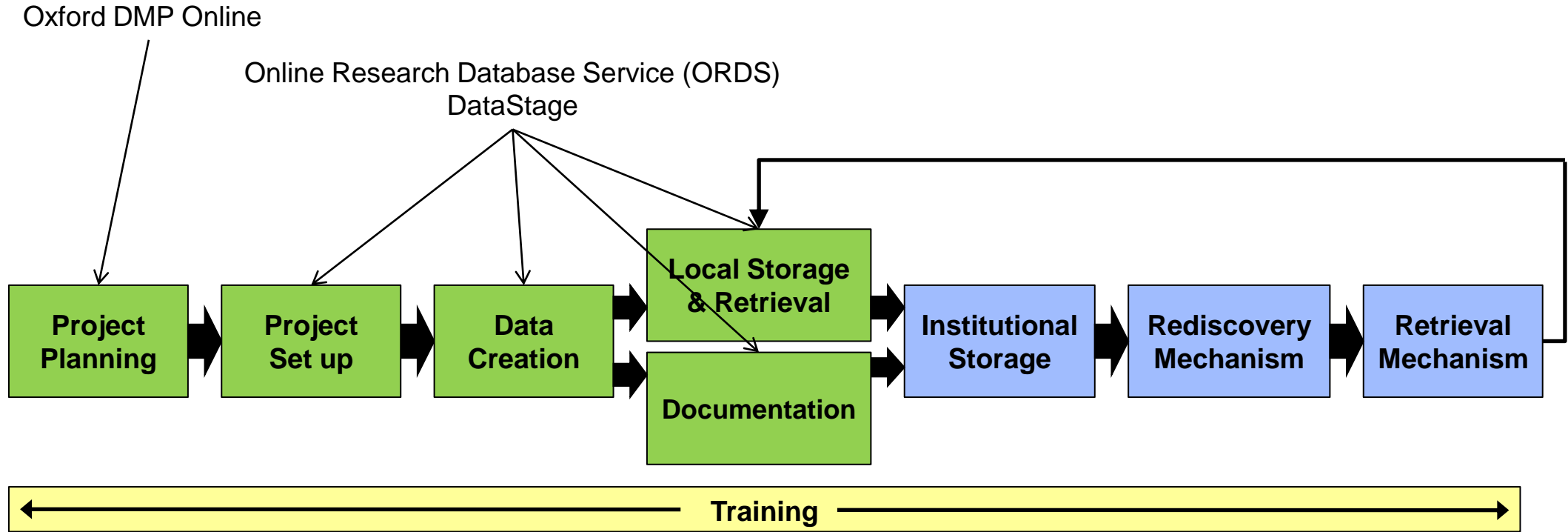


Research Data Management Interventions

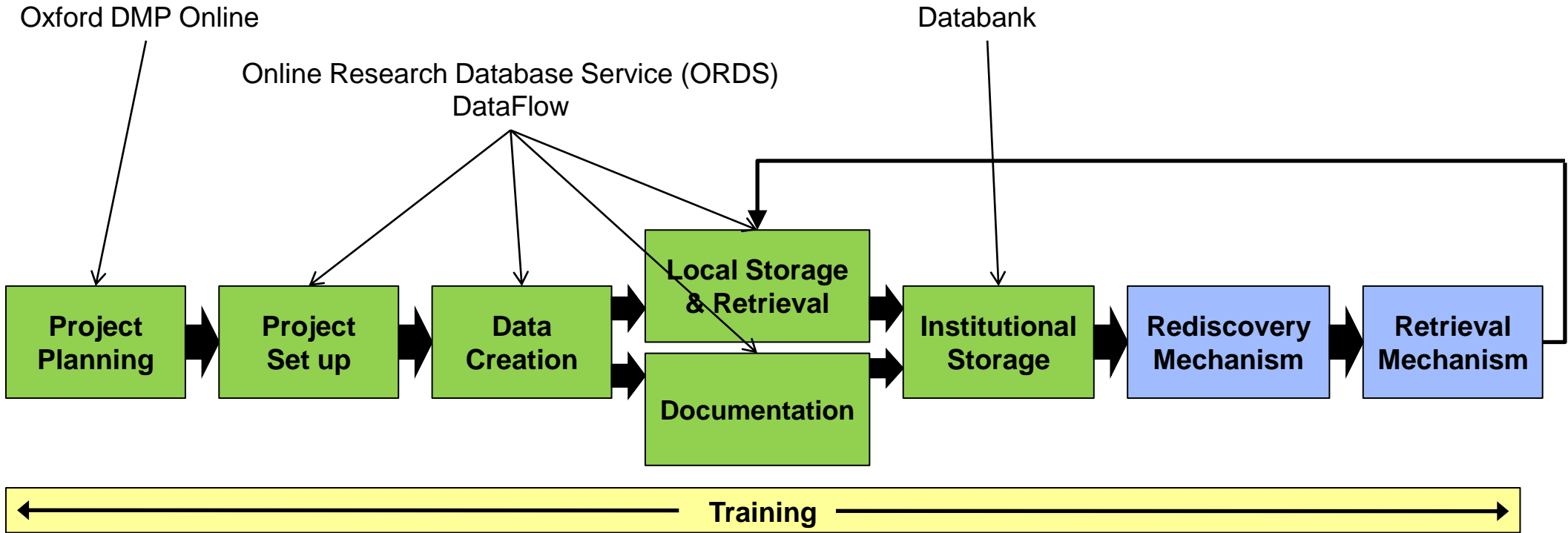
Oxford DMP Online



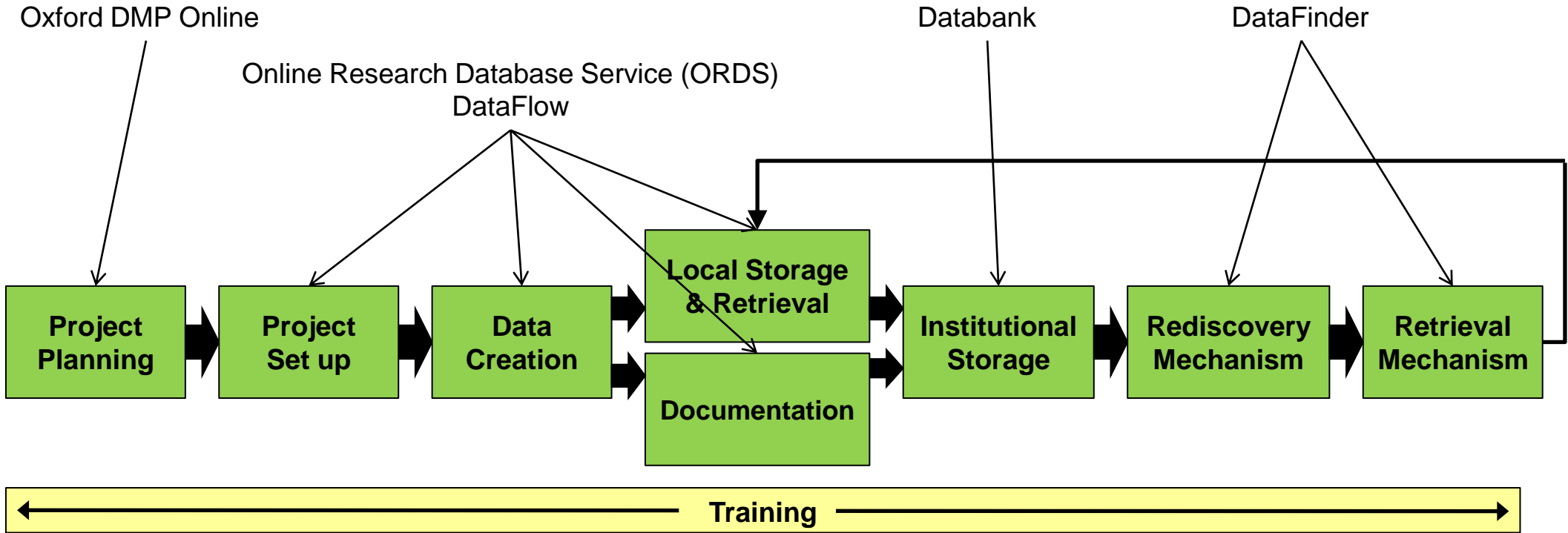
Research Data Management Interventions



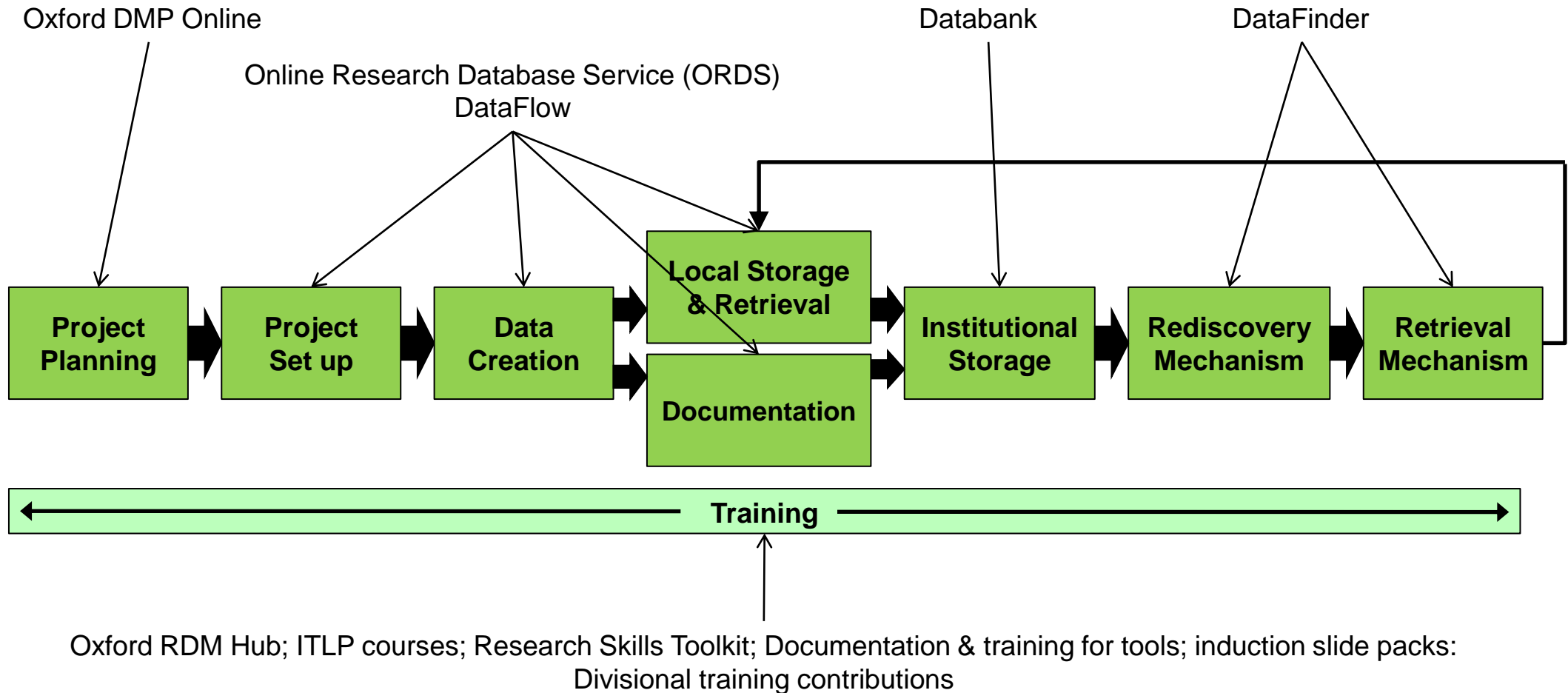
Research Data Management Interventions



Research Data Management Interventions

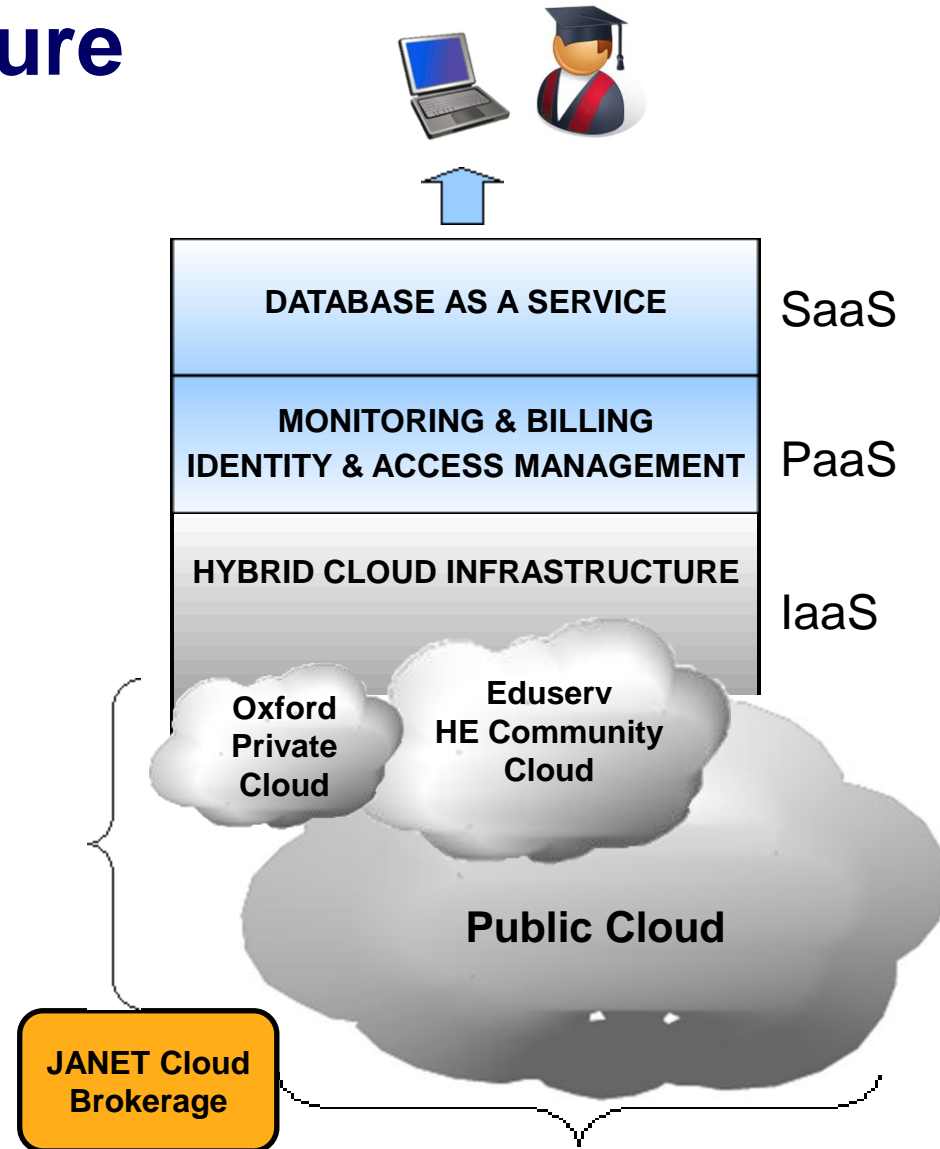


Research Data Management Interventions



Building infrastructure

- Offering cloud & shared services, whilst preserving autonomy of researchers
- Supporting national developments whilst work towards institutional vision
- Understanding user requirements whilst staying one step ahead
- Leading technological developments in research infrastructure



Thanks!

- Questions?

EIDCSR: <http://eidcsr.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>

Sudamih: <http://sudamih.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>

VIDaaS: <http://vidaas.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>

DaMaRO: <http://damaro.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>