Data Stewardship: multi-level support

Data management and data sharing becomes increasingly more important for carrying out research in a responsible way. Because of the diversity in research fields as well as in data management approaches and standards, technical solutions only are not sufficient to improve data management practices.

Dedicated advice and support on data management is required to help researchers making proper decisions on how to organise their data and be prepared for future challenges. These challenges can range from the transfer of data from one researcher to another, to funder and journal requirements regarding FAIR and/or open data.

TU Delft started in 2017 with dedicated data support at faculty level provided by Data Stewards, complementary to the university central research data support from the library. Data Stewards are the first point of contact for researchers for any data related questions.

Data Stewards are able to answer most questions themselves or they connect the researcher to other support staff with more expertise in e.g. ICT, legal or ethical matters.

In this presentation, the typical data management challenges will be outlined, the data support approach as implemented at TU Delft will be presented and the difference between Data Stewardship and the role of Data Stewards will be explained.