Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Technical Culture In The Reconstruction Of French Cathedrals After The First World War

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Template: UoE Default DMP template for Research Staff

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Project abstract:

The extensive reconstructions of major churches in Northern France after WW1, notably Soissons, Noyon, Reims, St.-Quentin (1919-38), used techniques that range from traditional stonework to radical improvements expected by concrete, the period’s ubiquitous material. These achievements showed a similar spirit of permanence as the original fabric, so it is worthy surveying their quality on the sites, i.e. the degree of compatibility between stiffer new fabric and the delicate and unstable medieval structure. Our earlier studies have shown a range of visions among the architects in charge, which can be analysed by tracing the origin of their technical skills and professional development through archive and literature research in France. The scale of interventions required innovation, which is apparent and intensive in Reims by Deneux but has to be explored elsewhere, all in the context of moving from load-bearing forms towards skeletal structures and from patented products to new reinforced concrete technologies.

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Technical Culture In The Reconstruction Of French Cathedrals After The First World War

Administrative Information

1) School or Institute

- CAHSS - Edinburgh College of Art

Staff member at the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

2) Project start date

2024-09-01

3) Project end date

2025-12-15

4) Project funder or sponsor.

Research Collaboration Grants RSE (Royal Society of Edinburgh)
https://rse.org.uk/funding-collaboration/award/rse-research-collaboration-grants/

Data Collection

5) Data Collection

Most of the data will be produced from site visits to the monuments case studies (the cathedrals of Reims, Soissons, Noyon and St Quentin). These will be photos, videos or sketches of elements like roof trusses or any areas where the WW1 interventions are visible. No high resolution is required, so the photos and videos will be of medium size. Sketches will be digitised for storage.
The Monuments Historiques archives in Charenton, Paris (Mediatheque du Patrimoine et Photographie) are a very valuable resource that store the administrative and project documents of the reconstructions. We are allowed to take photos of the material and we can publish it under licence, but we will need a discussion with them on how much it would be permitted to store on a research repository.
We aim to use the university of Edinburgh DataShare portal for the management of the data, which provides a minimum of 500 Gb storage space that should be sufficient for our project. https://datashare.ed.ac.uk/

Documentation & Metadata

6) Documentation & Metadata

The survey observations will be recorded by sketches and explanatory notes on notebooks to allow us firstly to analyse the information on our desks and make our interpretations of the rich archive material at MPP. These will be scanned into pdf format and will be stored in the same folders as the primary data (photos). These notes will document as many of the locations of the photos of important details.
Similarly, notes can be stored during the desktop analysis of the data, especially for interpretations and points of further research (other archives, role of other key players like local architects or the stonemasons).
The suggestion from the guidelines to label consistently the documentation and deposited metadata is very helpful, so we will set up a folder organisation and file labelling scheme: these can be nested folders with clear names organised in an order like monument > area > aspect > detail and the pdf readme or notebook file will be in any folder with key information clearly labelled as such.

It is important also to distinguish all through the data organisation what is original and raw data, and what has been processed by our team.
We will set up a monthly back-up schedule for any sort of data we produce, but especially for the important field data.

Ethics & Legal Compliance

7) Ethics & Legal Compliance

No personal or sensitive data will be collected. All data are expected to come from surveying of historic building fabric and permission will be sought by the Ministry of Culture or the local DRAC (Direction régionale des affaires culturelles) for the Haut de France region for permission – I am ware of their IPR guidelines from my previous publications on relevant subjects
We would be happy for any critical data about the preservation of those interventions to be shared with the Ministry, as long as this does not infringe our ability to publish our work. In general though they would prefer mainly a copy of a publication, if it summarises information relevant to their practice or acknowledges their support. This is certainly a practice with MPP, who appreciated my earlier publication on the works in Noyon and Soissons, based substantially on their archive material and support.
The suggestion to attend the Data Protection Courses is very helpful. https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/training/dataprotection
I have also filled the ECA RKEI Research Ethics Form.

Storage and Back-Up

8) Where will your data be stored and backed-up during the project?

During the field surveys, immediate data like photos and videos will be transferred into our work computers and external hard drives as back up. Soon thereafter, on our return, we will be storing them in the university's Research DataStore which will be the common data storage of our team. This will be done with date-labelled folders, nesting sub-folders according to the monument and type of data. This will provide 4 independent storage areas and should minimise risk of data loss.
Subsequently, at desktop analysis stage the folders will be re-organised.
The conditions laid below by the DataStore scheme are very helpful:
"DataStore provides enterprise-class storage with guaranteed backup and resilience. Data is retained on DataStore until deletion by the data owner. The backups provide resilience in the case of accidental deletion and against incidents affecting the main DataStore storage. The data are automatically replicated to an off-site disaster recovery facility, with 10 days of file history visible online. Offsite tape backups keep 60 days of history of the filesystem. The 60 day rolling snapshots allow important data to be recovered to a prior state, by request if beyond the visible period."

Selection and Preservation

9) Where will the data be stored long-term?

At the end of the project that data will be stored in the Research DataShare. Some key and original data like interpretative sketches, other archives material etc should be embargoed from public access until we have concluded publications of the project. These are expected to be journals, which should not take more than a year.

10) Which data will be retained long-term?

At the end of the project, we will be retaining data that will be needed by ourselves for the next phase of the project or by other researchers for verification of our published findings or replication of the study. These include: key photos, videos, interpretation sketches and metadata as mentioned above (readme files, explanatory sketches).
All these data are expected to be digital, no need to preserve hard copies.

Data Sharing

11) Will the data produced from your project be made open?

- Yes: go to 12

12) How will you maximize data discoverability & access?

Once we are satisfied with our final interpretations and the way they are organised, we will deposit the data in a recognised, open access repository like Edinburgh DataShare.

In addition we will get a DOI for the data and use it in all publications and communications about the project (publications and conference papers, but also social media posts, etc.);

It is important to include a Data Access Statement (or Data Availability Statement) in all publications relating to the data. This will facilitate reporting citations and aligns with the next REF aims and the UKRI Open Access policy.

We will include necessary metadata record in the UoE's publicly accessible record in PURE.

We will also apply a CC BY Licence to the data to make it re-usable.

We expect most of the significant findings to be published as research outputs, but if we see a wider interest in our observations we could create a very basic web site to communicate, through the university's WordPress server possibly. The previous steps though guarantee a wider public data discoverability and access, so they may be enough.

Responsibilities & Resources

14) Who will be responsible for the research data management of this project?

The PI will be responsible for all Research Data Management according to this Data Management Plan. Occasionally, we will need some technical guidance by the UoE Research Data Support.

15) Will you require any training or resources to properly manage your research data throughout this project?

I do not anticipate a collection of complex data, so we will aim to a straightforward and meaningful structure to organise and deposit individual files in folders. Therefore, we do not expect a significant part of our time to be spent on Research Data Management. RDM training is though always useful and we will aim for this at the beginning of the project to establish a protocol. Then we can establish a standard procedure of storing and organising the material, which should be straightforward from then on.