

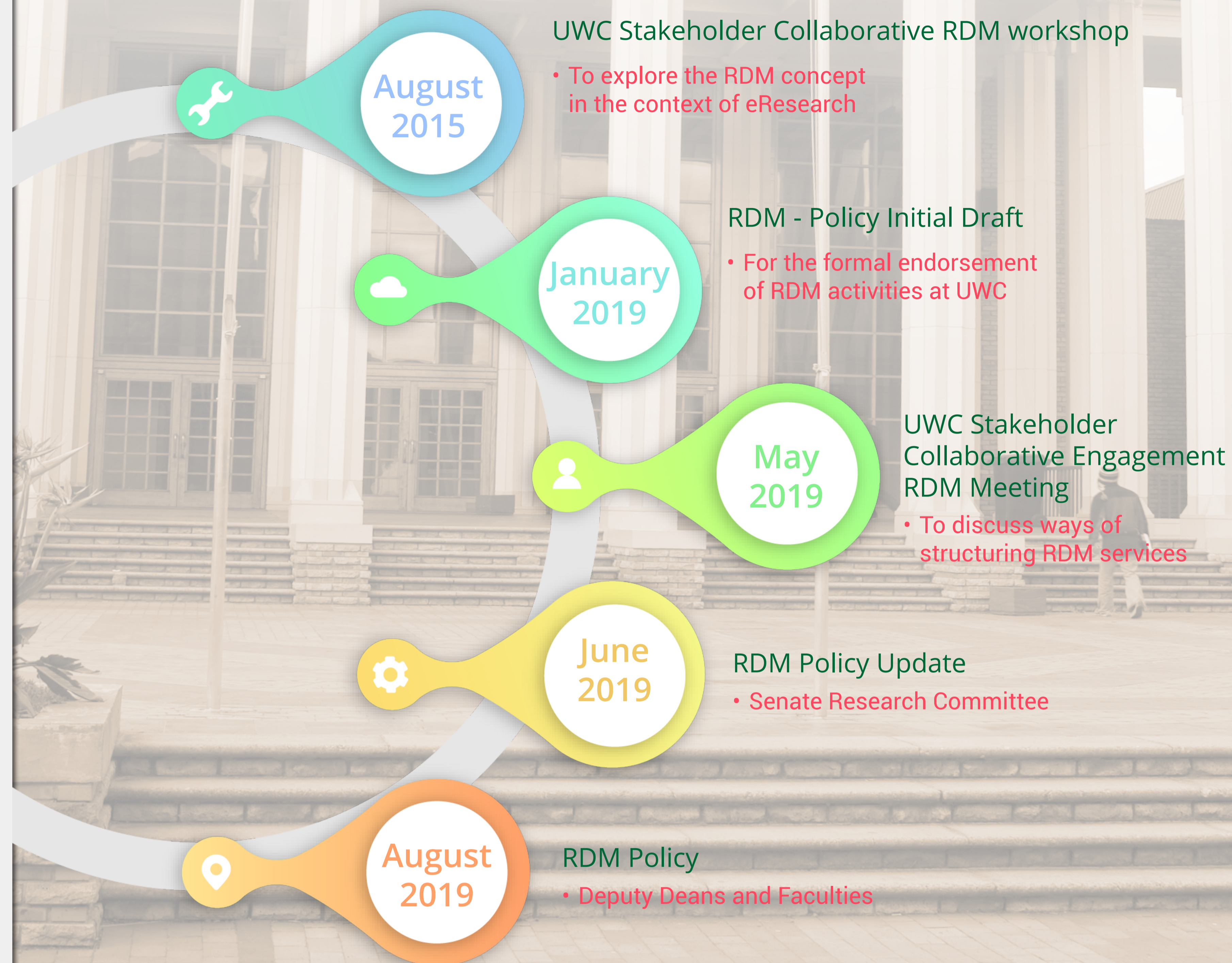
Implementing Research Data Management (RDM) at the University of the Western Cape Library: Opportunities & Challenges

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this poster is to share the UWC milestones with regards to the implementation of RDM activities, the opportunities created and the challenges faced.

Universities globally as centres of learning and knowledge generation are responding robustly to various directives that mandate research data management activities. In South Africa, research data management activities are driven by various directives from National Government such as the Department of Science & Innovation WHITE PAPER that was released in September 2018.

RDM Milestone @UWC



OTHER NATIONAL KEY DRIVERS

- Statement on Open Access to Research Publications from the National Research Foundation (NRF)**
- DST SA-EU Dialogue on Open Science** – recommends the adaptation of three international frameworks, FRAND; FAIR, the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'; and a review of legislation to ensure consistency with the principles of Open Science (*SA-EU Open Science: Dialogue Report*, 2018).
- ILIFU Data Facility** in the Western Cape (UCT, UWC, CPUT, SU, SPU, SKA SA)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Participation in RDM initiatives and communities:**
 - NeDDIC - Network of Data & Information Curation Communities
 - DIRISA – Data Intensive Research Infrastructure South Africa
- Involvement in the ILIFU RDM Project:**
 - A collaborative use of data intensive handling facility used by researchers in the Astronomy and Bioinformatics disciplines in the Western and Northern Cape partner institutions (UCT, SU, UWC, CPUT, SPU, SKA);
 - The project is in response to global trends on Open Science, Open Access and Open Data
 - Funded through DIRISA by the Department of Science and Technology.
 - UWC participates in the development of research data management framework regulations and guidelines.
- Staff appointments** - made to capacitate and strengthen RDM initiatives @UWC
 - e-Research Director
 - Manager: Research Data and Impact
- Workshops and Awareness**
 - Collaborative Workshops with Data and Library Carpentries;
 - RDM training workshops, roadshows and consultations;
 - Development of RDM LibGuides.
- UWC Research Data Repositories Platforms**
 - Two UWC data repositories were set up to enable the processes of research data management.
 - Figshare - <https://uwc.figshare.com/>
 - Zenodo - <https://zenodo.org/communities/uwc/>

CHALLENGES

- Reluctance to sharing of data by researchers due to specific softwares that are required to share data in other disciplines;
- Control and ownership of data emanating from group collaborations;
- Some researchers feel challenged to share data solely because they feel that the data is only understandable to them as the producers.

WAY FORWARD

- Continuous collaborations and partnerships anticipated
- Deployment of Research Data Services (RDS) and equitable access to the research datasets.
- Trials set up on databases with datasets platforms
- Uploading and transferring of datasets on Zenodo- new data repository platform
- UWC data audit to determine the practices of researchers
- It is anticipated that the RDM Policy will be approved and implemented in 2020.

References

1. *SA-EU Open Science SA: Dialogue Report*. (2018).
2. South African Ministry of Science and Technology. (2018). *White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation for public consultation*. Retrieved from www.dst.gov.za

