Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: International Town Twinning: cultural diplomacy and grassroots activism in the Cold War

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Project abstract:
This study examines town twinning between Moscow-East Berlin from 1956-1980s as a facet of Soviet cultural diplomacy during the Cold War. It explores how these partnerships facilitated grassroots involvement in diplomacy and cross-border communication. The study aims to understand the influence of such initiatives on local communities, the difference in practices within the Eastern bloc, their overall impact on international relations, and to understand the role of citizen participation and trans-local connections in shaping international relations and cultural exchange.

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International Town Twinning: cultural diplomacy and grassroots activism in the Cold War

Data Summary

1. Briefly introduce the types of data the research will create. Why did you decide to use these data types?

My research will create text data primarily from archival sources and published sources such as newspapers and magazines. The project also involves obtaining audio content during oral history interviews, these materials will be recorded on an encrypted recording device and transcribed by me personally. It is also possible that I will use written questionnaires instead of audio interviews.

Data Collection

2. Give details on the proposed methodologies that will be used to create the data. Advise how the project team selected will be suitable for the data/digital aspects of the work, including details of how the institution's data support teams may need to support the project

I plan to collect and process archival sources, I plan to take photos of the documents or in case if it is not possible I will transcript them. These will be a combination of .doc and .jpg files. Consistency and quality of data will be controlled by quality control checks of picture and text data before it is filed under mentioned naming conventions. Any photo or text data that fails quality control will be recaptured the same or following day.

In terms of oral history interview, I will develop a questionnaire that I will use as guide during the interviews, or that the respondent can fill out independently. This questionnaire will be developed with the help of the University Ethics Committee. The questionnaire will be published as the part of the thesis as well.

Short-term Data Storage

3. How will the data be stored in the short term?

Photo data will be stored on smartphone device and digitally stored and transferred to an email address using an established data transfer service. It will then be stored on a hard drive in the short term before being uploaded to the University X: drive. In the longer term, both photo and text transcription data will be copied onto an external hard drive, which is held securely. For maximum security all files and data will also be backed-up on the the University X: drive. The main copy will be stored on the University X: drive and backed up by IT Services. All data management and storage for this research is my own responsibility.

3a What backup will you have in the in-project period to ensure no data is lost?

I will back-up data in several areas. All data will be stored on a hard drive and on the University X: drive, with copies backed-up to external hard drives and to cloud storage to ensure data is saved in the event that one of these systems fails. The main copy of all data will be stored on the University X: drive and backed-up by IT services.

Long-term Data Storage

4. How the data will be stored in the long term?

For the long term, data will be stored on cloud drive services with the University X: drive. Participant consent and conditions of use for archival material should be observed when storing data long term.

4a. Where have you decided to store it, why is this appropriate?

I have decided to keep two copies of my data for storage — on my personal hard drive and on University X: drive. These locations are secure and having several copies means the data will not be lost if one of the locations is compromised.

4b. How long will it be stored for and why?

This data will be stored indefinitely. The research I conduct and the material I collect should be available to be used by others.

4c. Costs of storage – why are these appropriate? Costs related to long term storage will be permitted providing these are fully justified and relate to the project Full justification must be provided in Justification of Resources (JoR)

There are no costs to the storage of my data.

Data Sharing

5. How the data will be shared and the value it will have to others

Any data I collect will most likely be in the form of word-document format. Archival primary material I collect can be shared on request by interested parties by placing in ORDA openly available under a Creative Commons licence. This material will have value to others working within my field of research or related areas.

5a. How the data will enhance the area and how it could be used in the future?

I hope that this data will offer greater insight into twin towns in Eastern block, but also into Cold War cultural diplomacy and people's diplomacy. The material I collect will not only support my thesis, but it could also support future research in this field and allow other researchers to critique or incorporate my arguments and materials.

5b. Releasing the data – advise when you will be releasing and justify if not releasing in line with AHRC guidelines of a minimum of three years. If the data will have value to different audiences, how these groups will be informed?

I have no current plans to release my data, though it can be accessed upon request at any time. On publication of my thesis I will include a notification of the data I have used and where it can be accessed for interested groups.

5c. Will the data need to be updated? Include future plans for updating if this is the case.

No.

5d. Will the data be open or will you charge for it? Justify if charging to access the data

This data collected from the archives will be open.

5e. Financial requirements of sharing – include full justification in the JoR

No foreseeable financial requirements.

Ethical and Legal Considerations

6a. Any legal and ethical considerations of collecting the data

The main ethical considerations for the archival research relate to data management and copy-right. The majority of archive material to be used in this project are freely available and can be cited for the purposes of research. I will be careful to familiarise myself with and follow closely any permissions and copy-right regulations provided by the individual archives. For the interviews, the main ethical considerations relate to informed consent, confidentiality and the right to withdraw.

6b. Legal and ethical considerations around releasing and storing the data – anonymity of any participants, following promises made to participants

Before agreeing to participate, informed consent from potential interviewees will be secured, and they may request anonymity. Interviewees will be provided with a detailed information sheet explaining the purpose of the research, the interview process, and their right to withdraw at any point during the interview and within a stated time frame. Confidentiality will be offered and assured through the use of pseudonyms in the process of transcription and data storage. For pseudonymous interviewees, a unique identifier would be applied and identity details stored separately to audio files and the interview summary. Interview recordings would be deleted by the end of a project, and anonymised transcripts only retained.