Careers and Skills for Data-driven Research (CaSDaR)

Dr. Louise Saul
Computing Insight UK
4–5th December 2025
Manchester Central

4th

The need for Data Stewardship

- Requirement for accountability and awareness around data provenance and restrictions for increased interconnectivity of data (Singh et al 2019)

- Increased 'commodification' of data that is not a binary situation (Ducuing, 2024)

- Data Stewardship is needed across the research landscape as the spread of needs is vast (Wendelborn et al 2023, Elger et al 2024 [Preprint], Langley 2020)

The role of Data Stewards
The need for Data Stewards across the data lifecycle

- Ensure that data is suitably documented, described and licensed for re-use.
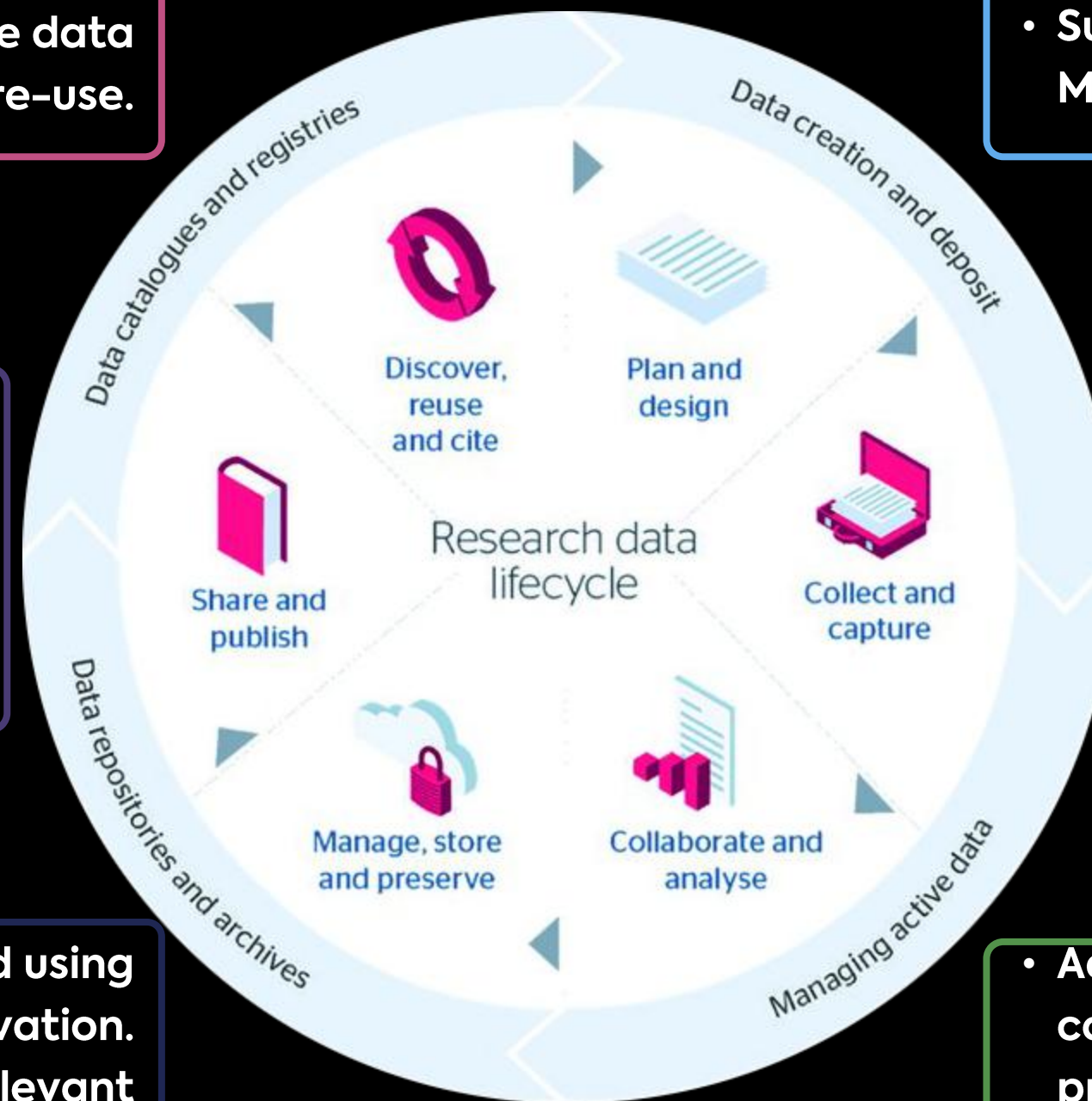- Possess skills required to facilitate data re-use.

- Understand data and research requirements for proposed work.
- Support creation of viable iterative Data Management Plans.

- Given appropriate recognition for their role in the research process.
- Aid with the preparation of data for publication, including identifying appropriate licenses.

- Influence collection and capture processes for data.
- Tailor these to the nature of the research and data.
- Understand the principles of responsible research and integrity, and when ethics is required.
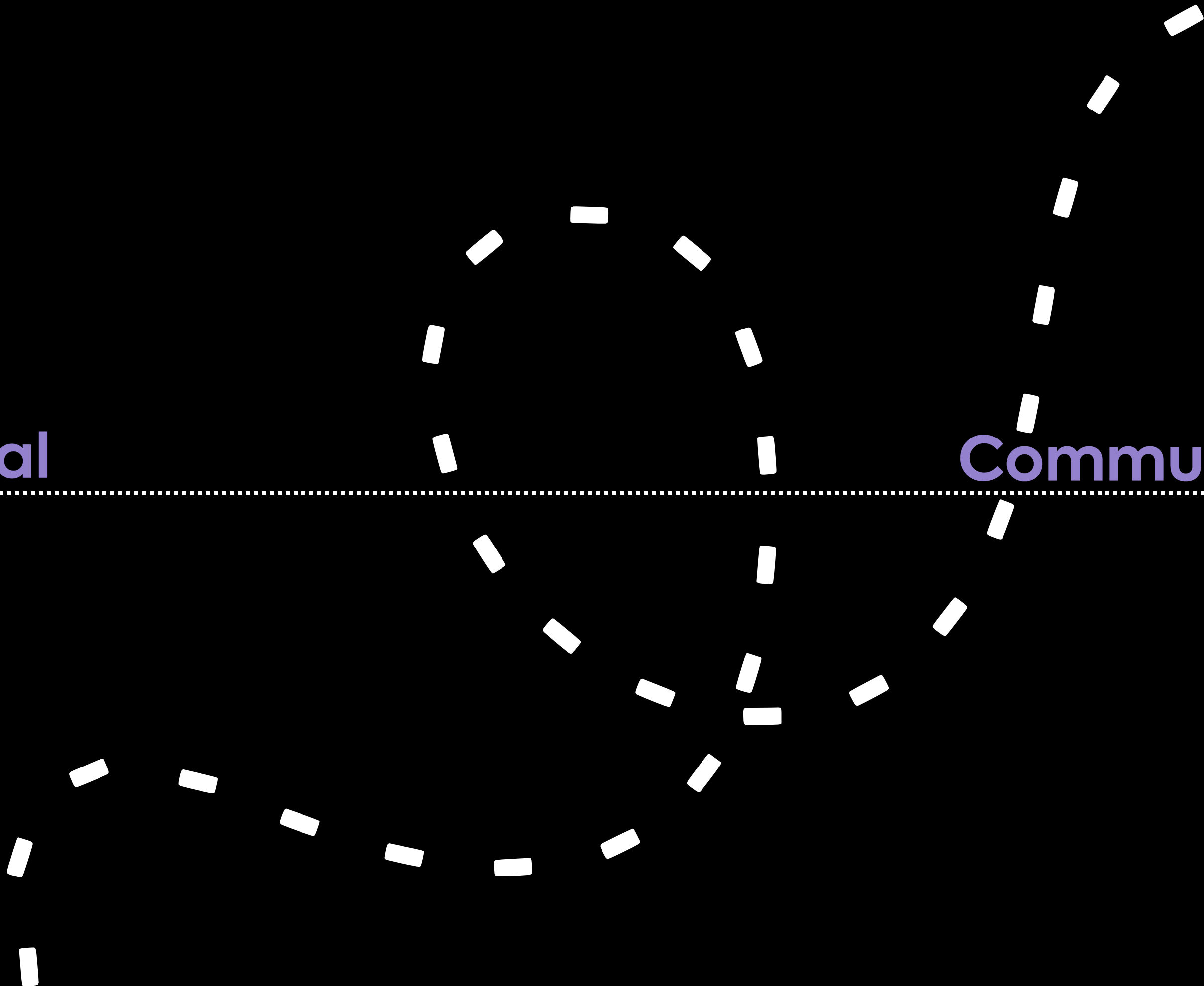
- In depth knowledge of identifying and using repositories for long-term data preservation.
- Advise on packaging up datasets with relevant (machine-readable) metadata and documentation.

- Advise on best practices and tools for collaboration, e.g. secure storage processes, data transform mechanisms.

Research data lifecycle

Data catalogues and registries
Data creation and deposit
Managing active data
Data repositories and archives

Discover, reuse and cite
Plan and design
Collect and capture
Collaborate and analyse
Manage, store and preserve
Share and publish

Technical   Communication

Status of Data Stewardship

1 Growing Recognition
Data stewards are increasingly acknowledged as part of the RTP landscape and for their vital role.

2 Limited Institutional Awareness
Many institutions still don't formally recognize the role or provide clear career paths, and many are unware Data Stewardship is a potential career.

3 Fragmented Role Placement
Data stewardship tasks are often carried out by staff in libraries, research data management, or project teams without formal recognition.

4 Skills Gap
There is a shortage of skilled data stewards, with growing demand for both data-specific and domain-specific expertise.

5 Need for Collaboration
Stronger partnerships between data stewards and researchers are essential to embed good data practices and improve research outcomes.

Introducing CaSDaR

CaSDaR — Careers and Skills for Data-driven Research

UK Research and Innovation

Principal Investigator: Dr Samantha Pearman-Kanza
Co-Investigators: Prof James Baker, Prof Simon Coles, Prof Simon Hettrick, Ms Isobel Stark
Network Coordinator: Dr. Louise Saul, **Network Mascot:** Cassie

Scan to Join

1 — Build a Community
Create a supportive, diverse, inclusive, self sustaining community for data stewards. Run flagship events to bring the community together and allow them to drive us.

2 — Establish Data Stewards
"Learn by doing". Fund data stewards as "researchers on the ground" to understand roles and challenges across different institutions and (under represented) disciplines.

3 — Develop Career Pathways
Establish clear and accessible career pathways, with entry level routes, progression opportunities, taking into account the different skill requirements.

4 — Recognition & Cultural Change
Promote the recognition of data stewards, highlighting their critical role in managing and preserving research data. Establish a culture that values and supports data stewards.

5 — Enabling Sustainability
Develop sustainable models for data stewardship. Establish Data Steward Association that will empower our community to be self managed both during and after the grant.

1st April 2025 - 31st March 2029

University of Southampton
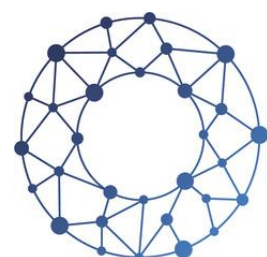
www.casdar.ac.uk

https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/CASDAR

CaSDaRNetwork

casdarnetwork

PSDI — PHYSICAL SCIENCES DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

UKRN — UK Reproducibility Network

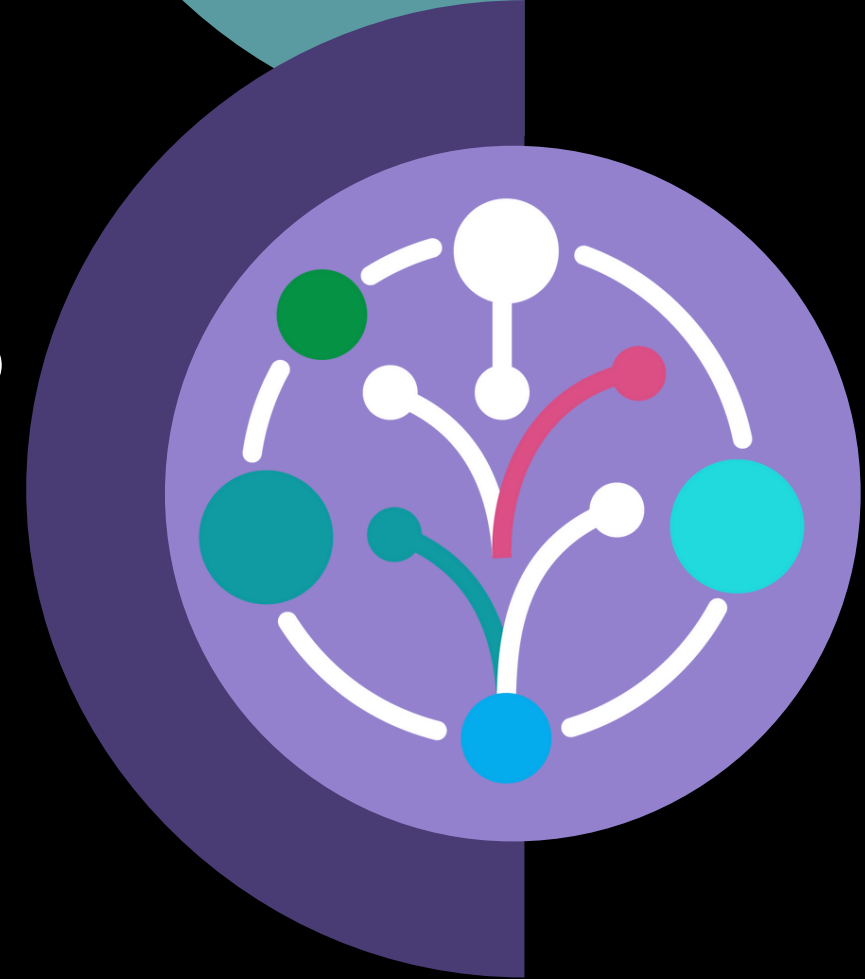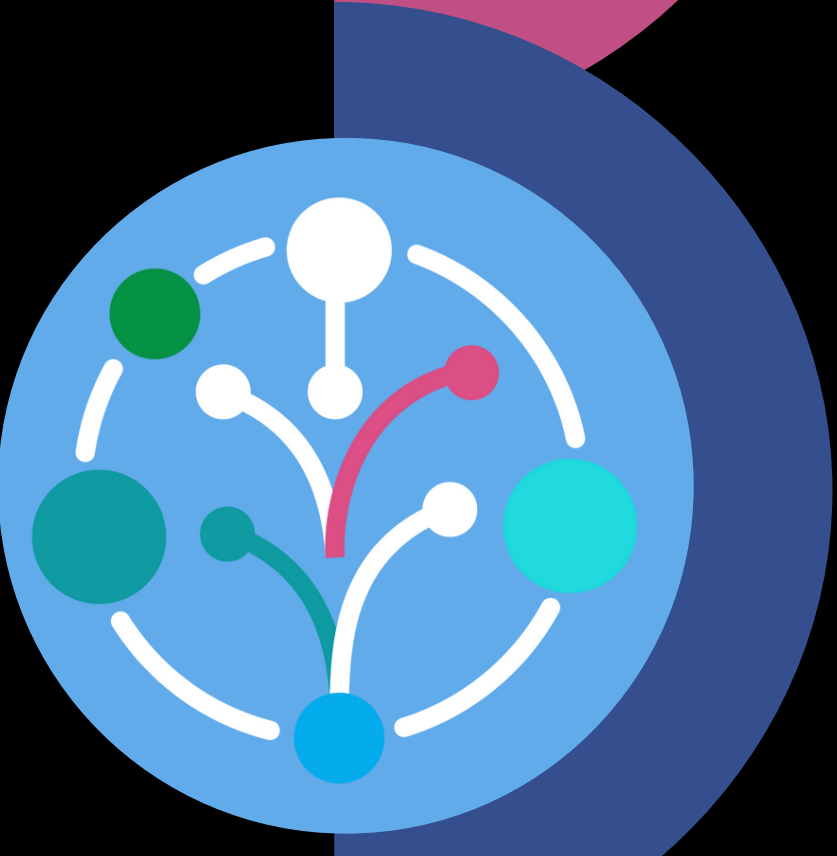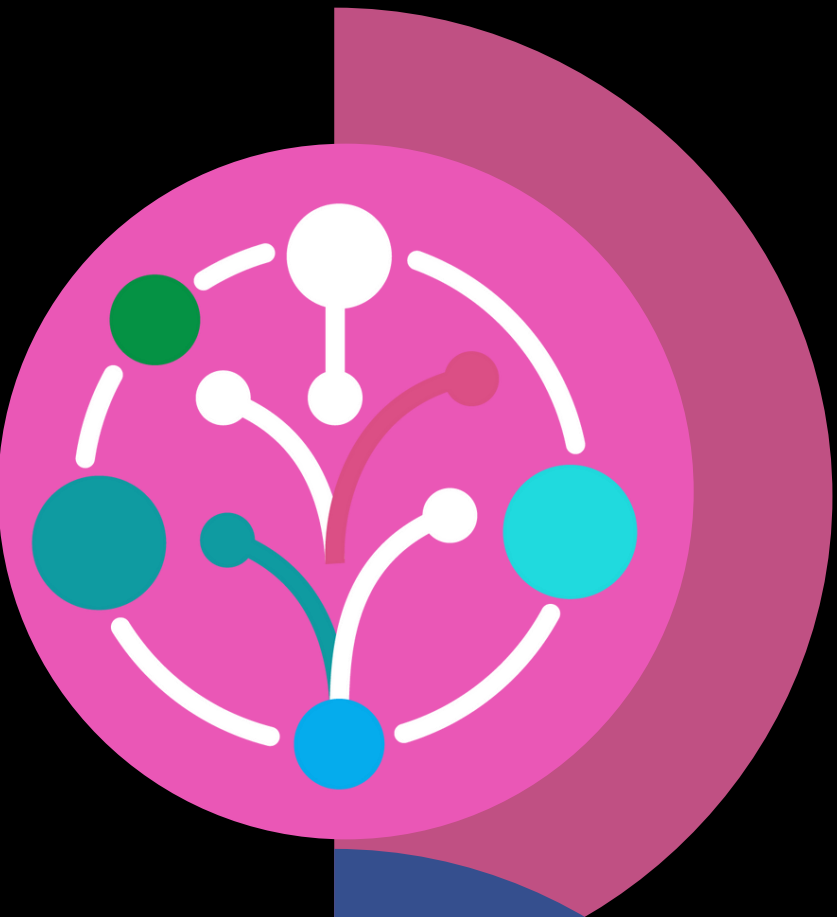RN UK — UK Reproducibility Network

eLixir UNITED KINGDOM

DCC

What's next for CaSDaR?

Launch of our first funding call deadline 22nd January 2026

Data Steward Stories, James Steele 10th December 2025

Training workshops and sandpits for 2026

Data Stewardship Conference, 18th-19th November 2026

CaSDaR Details

CaSDaR — Careers and Skills for Data-driven Research
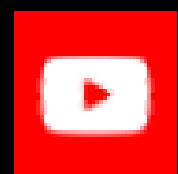
www.casdar.ac.uk

CaSDaRNetwork

@casdarnetwork.bsky.social

@casdarnetwork@mstdn.social

@CaSDaRNetwork

@CaSDaRNetwork

https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/CASDAR