

The Power of Data Management: Making the Invisible Work of Trials Visible



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WHY?

Challenge

- Data Management (DM) spans the whole trial lifecycle, but roles and job titles vary considerably across clinical trials units (CTUs).
- A 2025 survey of DM and information systems (IS) teams identified 32 different job titles.
- Activities considered part of Data Management in some CTUs may be undertaken by other functions elsewhere.
- This variation makes the full contribution of Data Management difficult to describe, compare and recognise.

Aim

- Demonstrate the scope, complexity, and value of DM in clinical trial delivery

Our Approach

- Develop a shared framework of functional domains that reflects the range of Data Management activities undertaken across CTUs.

HOW?

Collaboration:

- Formed a working group of Data Management staff from across the UK Registered CTU Network.

Data Collection:

- Collected and mapped the Data Management activities undertaken within participating CTUs.

Functional Domains:

- Grouped related activities into functional domains, creating a shared framework for describing the work of Data Management.

Want a mobile-friendly version of this poster?

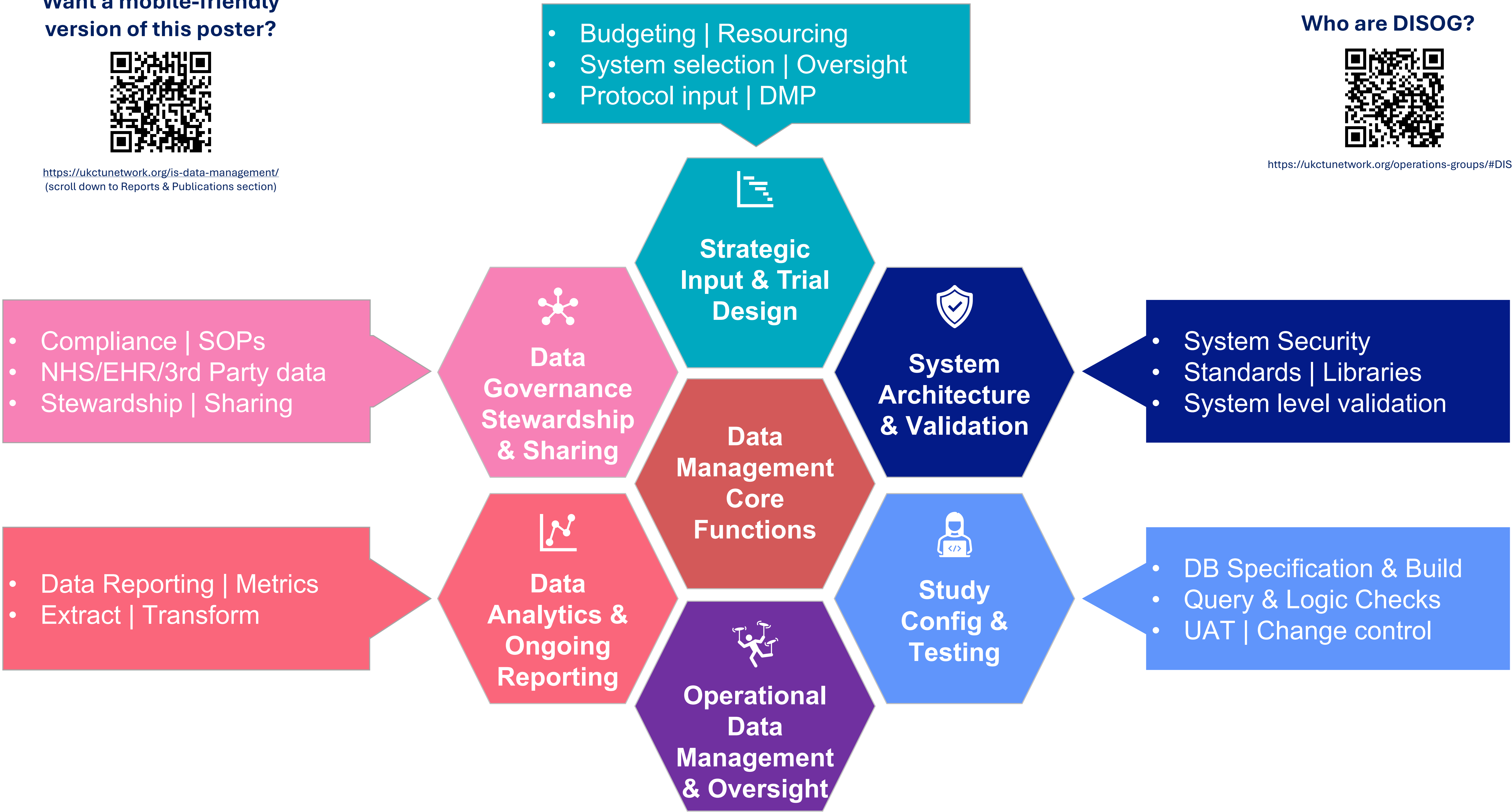


<https://ukctunetwork.org/is-data-management/>
(scroll down to Reports & Publications section)

Who are DISOG?



<https://ukctunetwork.org/operations-groups/#DISOG>



POTENTIAL IMPACT

- Professional Recognition**
Provides a clearer way to demonstrate the breadth, complexity and value of Data Management in clinical trials.
- Workforce Development**
Can inform more consistent job descriptions, competency frameworks and career pathways across CTUs.
- Benchmarking**
Enables CTUs to compare how Data Management activities are organised and resourced, identify differences in practice and learn from one another.

Acknowledgements

The Rubik's Cube™ of Information Systems in Clinical Trials: The importance of the IS function in the successful development and delivery of clinical trials



<https://ukcrc-information-systems-ops-group.github.io/is-rubiks-cube/>

NEXT STEPS

- RACI Matrix**
Publish the framework with a RACI matrix to define clear responsibilities.
- Network Survey**
Map functional domains and activities against existing DM and IS roles to inform competency frameworks and career pathways.
- Mentoring**
Establish a mentoring scheme to support the development of DM and IS staff across CTUs.
- Web Resource**
Create a website to raise the profile of Data Management within CTUs.