At the University of Oxford, we've worked with researchers often working with digital humanities projects, often projects that are quite old and need some help with their research.

For data management we found using a metaphor of temperature a really useful way of communicating and explaining research data management needs to our researchers, we say hot data is data created in the heat of research, used, regularly updated, analysed or transformed.

At the other end, cold data are data that are archived and preserved, usually in a university repository.

In the middle are warm data. This is where our digital humanities projects sit, where data are occasionally updated, shared the source of collaboration, and often need to be accessible at a record level.

We found using this metaphor really helps simplify and clarify our communications as research support service staff to researchers and experts throughout the university and.