

We Need to Talk about KIM:

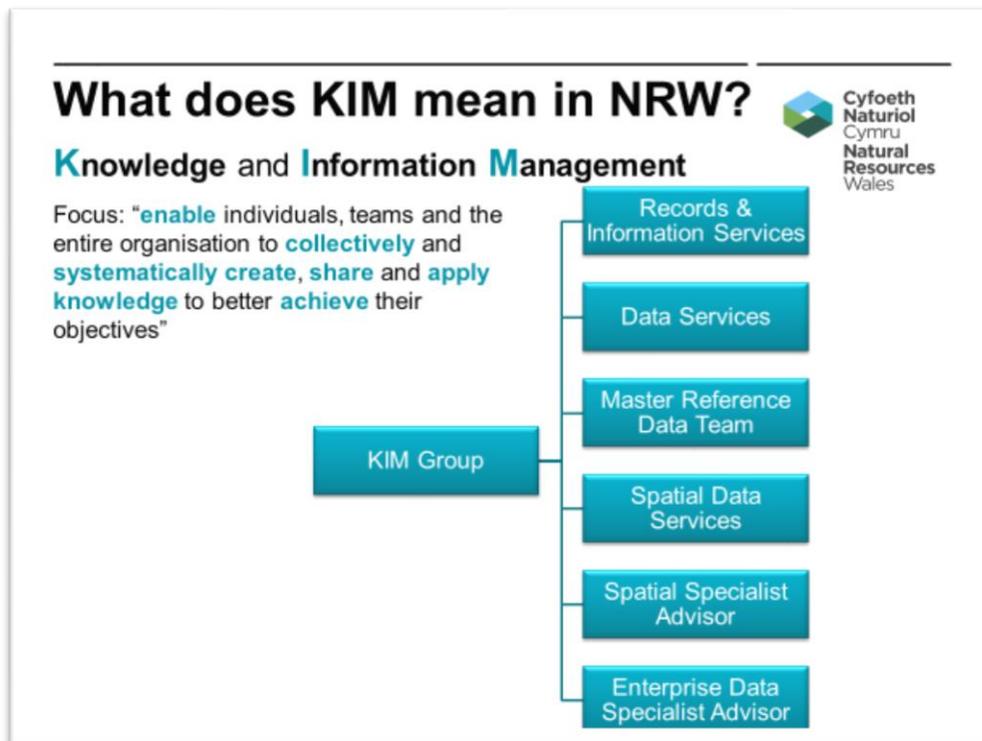
Natural Resources Wales Information and Library Services

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) *Information and Library Services* has a way of working that might be slightly different from other Libraries and Information Services in WHELF.

As a Welsh Government Sponsored Body, NRW *Information and Library Services* delivers access to a wide range of electronic and physical information resources to support staff in their delivery of key business priorities and enhance the continued development of our knowledge base.

However, we do not work in isolation, but within the *Knowledge and Information Management Group* or *KIM*.

KIM is an all-encompassing term related to the creation, management, use and sharing of our information. It refers to a multidisciplinary approach to organisational objectives, by allowing people to make the best use of our knowledge, Information and Data.

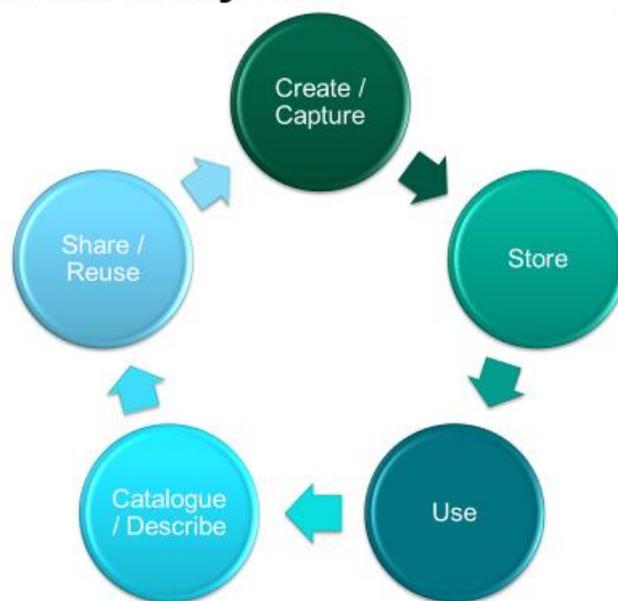


In a more traditional context, the different teams within *KIM* – *Data Management Teams*, *Records Management*, and *Information and Library Services Team* for example – are often distributed across an organisation, however with NRW we have moved away from managing our information, records and data in silos and have made a conscious decision to move towards a more collaborative way of working by having a centralised *KIM* Group.

So, what does this mean and how does it work? Our *KIM* Group has a collective aim, which is to enable and facilitate individuals to transform our data into information assets, which allow us to share our knowledge and ultimately improve the wisdom of our organisation, and those who use our data and information. *KIM* does this through cataloguing, managing and sharing our data and information assets, allowing individuals to exploit, analyse, interpret and summarise it in order to come to an informed decision, give advice or take an action, based on the best available evidence.

A good example of how *KIM* works in practice and how the *Information and Library Service* contributes to it is by following the *KIM* Lifecycle.

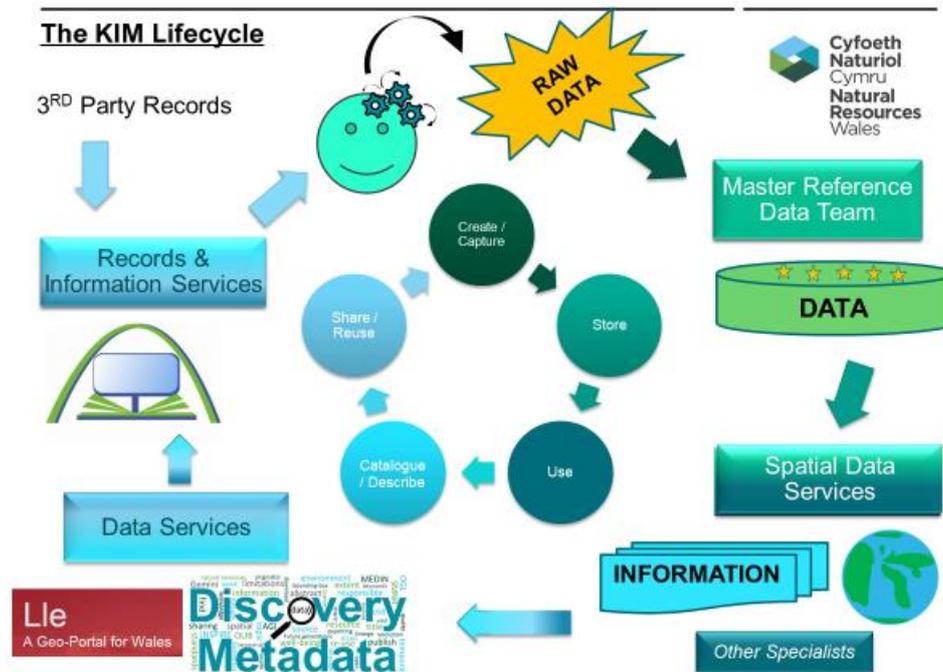
The KIM Lifecycle



- So, the *KIM* Lifecycle starts with **creation**, or in our case, possibly **capture**. By this we mean as part of our role, NRW **creates** and /or **captures** a large variety of data, be it specialist out in the field counting butterflies or one of our telemetry systems collecting rainfall data every 15 minutes from thousands of locations across Wales.
- The next step is that this data needs to be **stored** in suitable location. Once this has been done, the data can be **used**.
- For example, the specialist out counting butterflies may want to **use** this new data in combination with data collected over the last 20 years. Or the telemetry data may have to be used to **create** a model to predict flood risk across wales. These data may be compiled into information such as an Evidence Report.
- The next stage is the **cataloguing** and **description** of this information and data. This needs to be done to ensure that it is searchable, discoverable and accessible by all staff, ensuring compliance with the numerous legislation and standards.
- This can then allow our information and data assets to be easily **shareable** and hence **reused**.

Now traditionally these were all managed in silos – however, in NRW the *KIM* Lifecycle is managed through the dedicated *KIM* Group allowing the teams to work together bringing the lifecycle to life.

So, to explain this further, we'll take you through the lifecycle again, first looking at the how the *KIM* teams work together using a theoretical example.



- So firstly, a piece of data is **created** or **captured**.
- It is then up to the *Master Reference Data Team* to master this data – ensuring it is **stored** in the most appropriate way and has been through the Q and A processes required.
- The *Spatial Data Team* may then load this raw data into their spatial store, transforming the data into a format which may encourage further **use**. Datasets maybe **used** in combination with other data sources to create a derived product, or data visualisations. Specialist may **use** the data to **create** information, such as an NRW Evidence Report. This is really where data is brought to life, as “data is only as good as its interpretation” and by writing a report you are given the data more context.
- At this point, data and information could get separated or lost in the ether somewhere, meaning that although we have **created** our information, it is trapped and cannot be released and turned into knowledge as people can’t access them. This is where the *Data and the Information and Library Services Teams* work together by facilitating the **sharing** of our information and data, turning into knowledge.
- So, the *Data Services Team* works on **cataloguing** and **describing** our datasets as well as the **sharing** and **reuse** of the data. They write what is known as discovery metadata,

which is information about a dataset allowing staff and members of the public to search and discover our data holdings. They also deal with the publication of our open data, and encourage the **reuse** of what we make open, under the open government licence.

- The *Information and Library Services Team* deals with the **storage, cataloguing** and **describing** of our information assets, again so anyone can search request and access our digital or physical collection.
- The Records Management Team work alongside both the Information Services and Data Teams managing legacy and current digital and paper records/systems and this entails **capturing, storage, cataloguing**, access controls, retention, disposal and identifying historical records for transfer to The National Archives and National Library of Wales.

Now some of you may be thinking, great, but it still looks like you're working in silos. Well, the *Information and Library Services*, and *Data Services Team*, use the OLIB LMS for **cataloguing** and **describing** our information and data, meaning we can track the location of our data and information, whilst supplying them as a package where required. This evidence package is becoming increasingly important as we start building new partnerships through the delivery of our objectives associated with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and The Environment Act.

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