bwFDM-Communities Newsletter

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Research data management – a key issue for the future

bwFDM-Communities

Against the backdrop of the ever-increasing importance of data and information, bwFDM-Communities is tasked with developing recommendations which will ensure a top rank for our federal state in international research.

In order to achieve this, active dialogue with all university research groups in Baden-Wuerttemberg is being sought out. Next to identifying b*est-practice solutions*, this project is supposed to establish at which points IT support needs to be expanded in order to meet the increasing demands of the respective faculties, together with the researchers.

Scientists' perspectives on RDM

The individual research areas are very heterogenous with respect to their data management requirements. Whereas some disciplines are confronted with a flood of data at every measuring point, others have only a few bits as the result of months of individual research. Understandably, data management is not a top priority for most researchers. However, an awareness of the fact that a lot of information is inconsistent, poorly interconnected, hard to find and difficult to integrate into one's own work is shared by most of them.

The political framework

The current EU political vision of RDM can be summarized by a statement from the European *High Level Expert Group on Scientific Data* for 2030: „Our vision is a scientific e-infrastructure that supports seamless access, use, re-use, and trust of data. In a sense, the physical and technical infrastructure becomes invisible and the data themselves become the infrastructure..." [1]. This statement integrates seamlessly into the intensified federal and European open access efforts.

RDM in project research

The EU, Germany and the DFG (German Research Foundation) have announced their plans for the development of the research sector in several publications. [1][2][3]. The big external funding institutions will increase their RDM requirements and investments in „open data" projects in the future. This will be accomplished via the funding of professional structures and standards as well as the gradual increase of data management requirements for research projects. Within the framework of public project funding, it is foreseeable that publication of most primary research data will become mandatory. (see Horizon 2020 MGA [4] article 29) Universities are attempting to accommodate these changes and to create conditions which will allow the researchers to meet such requirements. Good data management will become an advantage in the near future.

Infobox

Newsletter

From now on we will send out information concerning the project as well as research data management in general every two months in the form of this newsletter.

Interview phase is in progress

Our interview guideline is ready and all key account manager are in active dialogue with the scientists. From these semi-structured interviews anonymized core issues will be identified and distributed to working groups. Moreover, we're preparing statistical analysis of quantifiable statements.

http://bwfdm.scc.kit.edu/
http://bwfdm.scc.kit.edu/staff (contact persons)
Frank.Tristram@kit.edu (editor)

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