



DMPwerkzeug - A tool to support the planning, implementation, and organization of research data management.

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Following the call to make the results of publicly funded research openly accessible, more and more funding agencies demand the submission of a data management plan (DMP) as part of the application process. These documents specify, how the data management of the project is organized and what datasets will be published when. Of particular importance for European researchers is the Open Data Research Pilot of Horizon 2020 which requires data management plans for a set of 9 selected research fields from social sciences to nanotechnology.

In order to assist the researchers creating these documents, several institutions developed dedicated software tools. The most well-known are DMPonline by the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) and DMPtool by the California Digital Library (CDL) – both extensive and well received web applications. The core functionality of these tools is the assisted editing of the DMP templates provided by the particular funding agency. While this is certainly helpful, especially in an environment with a plethora of different funding agencies like the UK or the USA, these tools are somewhat limited to this particular task and don't utilise the full potential of DMP.

Beyond the purpose of fulfilling funder requirements, DMP can be useful for a number of additional tasks. In the initial conception phase of a project, they can be used as a planning tool to determine which data management activities and measures are necessary throughout the research process, to assess which resources are needed, and which institutions (computing centers, libraries, data centers) should be involved. During the project, they can act as a constant reference or guideline for the handling of research data. They also determine where the data will be stored after the project has ended and whether it can be accessed by the public, helping to take into account resulting requirements of the data center or actions necessary to ensure re-usability by others from early on. Ideally, a DMP acts as information source for all stakeholders involved during the complete life cycle of the project.

The aim our project is the development of a web application called DMPwerkzeug, which enables this structured planning, implementation and administration of the research data management in a scientific project and, in addition, provides the scientist with a textual DMP.

Building upon a generic set of content, DMPwerkzeug will be customizable to serve specific disciplinary and institutional requirements. The tool will not only be available at a central web site, but will be able to be installed and integrated into the existing infrastructure of a university or research institution. The tool will be multilingual, with a first version being published in English and German.