



Quality Assurance in Publication Processes of Environmental Data

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For a researcher the publication of his work is a very important part for building up his reputation. At the moment this is mainly done by producing written publications, but the publication of raw data will become more important in the coming years. Actually there are some problems especially how to ensure the quality of this data. Besides a thorough review of the metadata the primary data itself has to be quality assured as well.

In the project "Publikation Umweltdaten" (Publication of Environmental Data) standard procedures for publishing raw data and the homogenization of metadata are developed. A focus is set on quality assurance procedures for the metadata and the data itself. For this purpose the web-based workflow software "Atarrabi" has been developed, which supports the publication agent at the data centre as well as the author to review the metadata. It also documents the quality assurance procedures. For the latter the project provides an R package, named "qat", to help the scientist to perform and document quality checks on the primary data. Both, Atarrabi and qat, have been made publicly available.

This contribution will give an insight into the work of the project and its implications for the future of data publication. It will present the developed software solutions and procedures and shows, which opportunities lay in quality assured publication of environmental data.