



Data Policy Construction Set - Building Blocks from Childhood Constructions

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A complete construction set of building blocks usually comes with instructions and these instructions include building stages. The products of these building stages usually build from very general parts become highly specialized building parts for very unique features of the whole construction model.

This sounds very much like the construction or organization of an interdisciplinary research project, institution or association, doesn't it! The creation process of an overarching data policy for a project group or institution is exactly the combination of individual interests with the common goal of a collaborative data policy and can be compared with the building stages of a construction set of building blocks and the building instructions.

Keeping this in mind we created the data policy construction set of textual building blocks. This construction set is subdivided into several building stages or parts each containing multiple building blocks as text blocks. By combining building blocks of all subdivisions it is supposed to create a cascading data policy document. Cascading from the top level as a construction set provider for all further down existing levels such as project, themes, work packages or Universities, faculties, institutes down to the working level of working groups. The working groups are picking from the remaining building blocks in the provided construction set the suitable blocks for its working procedures to create a very specific policy from the available construction set provided by the top level community. Nevertheless, if a working group realized that there are missing building blocks or worse that there are missing building parts, then they have the chance to add the missing pieces to the construction set of direct or future use.

This cascading approach enables project or institution wide application of the encoded rules from the textual level on access to data storage infrastructure. This structured approach is flexible enough to allow for the fact that interdisciplinary research projects always bring together very diverse amount of working habits, methods and requirements. All these need to be considered for the creation of the general document on data sharing and research data management.

This approach focused on the recommendation of the RDA practical policy working group to implement practical policies derived from the textual level. Therefore it aims to move the data policy creation procedure and implementation towards the consortium or institutional formation with all the benefits of an existing data policy construction set already during the proposal creation and proposal review.

Picking up the metaphor of real building blocks in context of data policies provides also the insight that existing building blocks and building parts can be reused as they are, but also can be redesigned with very little changes or a full overhaul.