

Data Life-Cycle Management (141-022)

Research Data Life-Cycle Management (DLCM)

The overall aim of this project is to improve support for Swiss researchers in managing their research data throughout its life-cycle. Building on existing work on national and international levels, a deeper analysis of requirements in data life-cycle management of research data will be carried out. This includes, but is not limited to questions of organization, technology, file formats, metadata as well as legal and regulatory aspects. Results of this analysis will be validated in collaboration with researchers from different fields acknowledging the pronounced differences between the approaches of scholarly disciplines.

This work will lead to a consolidated model framework for research data life-cycle management which will be exploited to formulate concrete guidelines that can be applied by researchers themselves in their data management.

Apart from the immediate benefit in day-to-day data management, this conceptual work will also facilitate the transfer of responsibility for data throughout the different phases of their life-cycle, e.g. when data is transferred from researchers working environment to an institutional or other long-term data archive. The institutions in charge of data management and long-term preservation – in most universities, IT services, research sectors and libraries are involved – will therefore rely on the conceptual framework for a range of pilot implementations of data life-cycle management solutions. Depending on the individual institution, some or all of the components do already exist. Within the project, life-cycle workflows will be completed and new components, mainly for long-term preservation will be evaluated and added.

With the experience from the concrete implementations it should be possible to suggest, which existing solutions can be made available as parts of an ecosystem of national services with a wider benefit and a sustainable business case beyond the institutional level.