
Data Life-Cycle Management (151-005)

Research Data Life-Cycle Management (DLCM): From Pilot Implementations to National Services

The primary objective of this project is to provide sustainable and tangible solutions at a national level to implement research data life-cycle management (DLCM). In doing so, this project endeavors to consolidate and further develop collaboration, while promoting coordination, between Switzerland's higher education institutions. Building on existing resources and tools at national and international levels, **we target the setting up of the needed services that will allow efficient managing of active research data, and ensure publication, long-term reference and preservation of subsets of data selected by researchers.** Those services will need adequate underlying infrastructures that the project partners intend to set up and test on specific use cases (in a first stage, mainly in life-sciences and humanities). **Guidelines and data management plans (DMP)**, necessary for providing researchers with the incentive to care for their data, will be provided based on pre-existing national and international policies. Moreover, because DLCM of research data involves many questions, which include, but are not limited to data organization, file formats, metadata as well as legal and regulatory aspects, important outcomes of this project are **the training of the end-users and the offering of consulting** in some specific DLCM areas. These resources will be made available through a national portal.

All these efforts are intended to lead to the implementation of concrete high-impact use-cases of exemplary research DLCM solutions, along with guidelines and training, so that researchers and their supporting scientific IT and library teams can apply the results themselves in their daily data management and data life-cycle activities. Where good solutions already exist or if not will be provided through this project, but the knowledge in the community is lacking for applying them to wider use, for instance in smaller institutions, this project aims at developing **support outreach, dissemination and consulting activities to remedy the underuse of DLCM.**

Apart from the immediate benefit in day-to-day data management, the deliverables of this project should also **facilitate the transfer of responsibility for data throughout the different phases of their life-cycle**, e.g. when data are transferred from facilities to the researchers' working environments, or to institutional or other long-term data archives. The institutions in charge of data management and long-term preservation – in most universities, research units, IT services, and libraries – will therefore rely on the proposed frameworks for a range of pilot implementations of DLCM solutions, from hard sciences to digital humanities.

With the experience gained from the concrete implementations, at the term of this project **we target the possibility to propose DLCM services to other institutions, which either lack experience in this field and/or do not have any infrastructure for managing scientific data.**