

## DMLawTool (192-009)

Guiding Tool for researchers to address legal aspects in data management

The goal of this project is to develop a **web-based guiding tool** that guides researchers working in the fields of humanities and social sciences through the **most relevant legal questions related to data management** and proposes them different **solution approaches** to archive their research data in a platform/repository. The tool thus helps researchers to become more aware of legal risks linked to the management of their data and to take the right decisions for a correctly handling their research data.

Until now, data archiving platforms in the fields of humanities and social sciences in Switzerland mainly focused on technical issues of research data archiving. However, the introduction of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the need to have complete Data Management Plans (DMPs) for projects of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), and the upcoming revisions of the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP) and the Swiss Federal Act on Copyrights and Related Rights (CopA), a good understanding of the legal background of data management becomes more and more important in order to reduce legal risks and avoid high penalties. However, often it is not easy for researchers to orient themselves within the legal jungle. It is therefore necessary to identify the most relevant legal questions and provide specific solution approaches that are easily understandable also to legal laymen.

The project collaborates with **five research data archiving platforms** in order to analyze some data sets of research projects and their related DMPs and to produce a structured list of all legal issues that emerge from the analysis (ranging from copyright, data protection, intellectual property to licensing and other legal aspects). Based on this, a selection of the most relevant legal questions will be created. Legal experts will then elaborate solution approaches. Afterwards, both questions and solutions approaches will be implemented in a web-based guiding tool with a user-friendly user interface that makes it easy for non-legal experts to understand the most important legal risks and help them making decisions that are in line with current legislation. The tool will be developed in English and will be available as open source software, so that all platforms dealing with humanities and social science research data in Switzerland can use it either as standalone instrument or integrated in a larger guiding tools used for defining the structure of data archives.

The tool and the elaborated legal solution approaches will be published and promoted on the web platform of the Competence Center in Digital Law (CCdigitallaw). In this way, it will be available to all staff of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). At the end of the project, an **event** will be organized in a centrally located location in Switzerland in order to inform researchers, responsables of research data archiving platforms, and other interested technical and library staff on the outputs of the project.