

Research Data at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Cologne

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In the course of the digitization of information, research data management (RDM) has become one of the most important new areas of research. Going one step further, Berman states that research data will drive the next generation of innovation and therefore, the development of effective research data infrastructure will be essential to enable data access and use (Ray, 2014: 438).

But according to estimates by the German Research Foundation (DFG), up to 90% of the digital generated research data and results end up getting lost (Winkler-Nees, 2011: 5) or “disappear in the drawer” (Kramer, 2014) shortly after the completion of research projects and are therefore not available for further use and reuse. To tackle this emergency, the German Council for Scientific Information Infrastructures (RfII) has made a series of recommendations for the future management of research data in its recently published position paper called “Performance by Diversity” (RfII, 2016). The RfII was tasked by Germany’s Joint Science Conference (GWK) with the formulation of broad-based recommendations for the scientific system in Germany as a whole. To that effect, universities have to prepare themselves to provide their scientists with the necessary infrastructures and services regarding RDM. The managing boards of the German universities organized in the German Rector’s Conference (HRK) have already identified this as a key task and published recommendations of how to develop an institutional RDM

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policy in each university (HRK, 2014, 2015). One of the recommendations of actions includes the conduction of an online survey addressing researchers' data and demands. The present poster acts on that suggestion by carrying out an online survey on RDM at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Cologne. The survey was conducted in 2016 by the Data Center for the Humanities (DCH) in cooperation with the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities as well as the University and City Library of Cologne (DCH, 2016).

Because surveys in human-computer interaction (HCI) research can be useful to gather information about people's habits, interaction with technology, or behavior as well as to get feedback on people's experience with a product, service, or application and to collect people's attitude and perceptions towards an application in the context of usage, the methodical approach of the survey follows the six stages of "Survey Research in HCI" published by Müller, Sedley and Ferrall-Nunge (2014). In addition, the survey is based on the relevant articles published in the handbook "Methods of Library and Information Science" by Umlauf, Fühles-Ubach and Seadle (2013).

The objective in the compilation of the questionnaire was to answer the following questions:

1. What research data are available?
2. What is the need for research data?
3. What support do the members of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities want from the DCH?

The poster will focus the main results of the survey and show potential conclusions.

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