National Research Data Services for Economics in Germany and the Role of the ZBW

International Conference on Economics and Business Information



Sven Vlaeminck
Publication Services
ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics
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Overview:

1. The German national Landscape for RDM-Services

- German Universities and RDM
- Learned Societies in Economic Sciences
- Storage of & Access to Research Data
- Subject-specific DOI-Registration of Research Data in the Social Sciences

2. ZBW's Approach in RDM

- Our Principles in RDM
- Some of ZBW's Activities in RDM
 - da|ra
 - EDaWaX / ZBW journal data archive
 - SowiDataNet
 - Guidebook on research data (management)

3. Summary and Lessons learned





1) THE GERMAN NATIONAL LANDSCAPE FOR RDM SERVICES





1.1 The German national landscape for RDM

UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG ZUKUNFT SEIT 1386

On the level of universities (non subject-specific):

- Within the last years, at least seven universities adopted policies on RD. Some also provide assistance in RDMtopics (e.g. competence centers or EU-offices).
- In addition, some implemented university-wide RDinfrastructures to support researchers in RDM:
 - LMU Munich
 - University of Bielefeld
 - University of Heidelberg
 - University of Mannheim
 - **TU Berlin**
- Also, the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) asks the universities to implement RD-Policies and RDMsupport at university level.

Across the entire data lifecycle - from data collection to publication - research data should be handled and documented diligently and according to appropriate subject-specific standards

- Each Project Investigator (PI) should provide a data management plan in line with the given subject-specific guidelines for institutions and projects - particularly for each new data-intensive research proposal
- Research data management in institutions and projects should aim towards

Competence Centre for Research Data

services for archiving and publishing their research data. The Competence

Our services:

Support at every stage of the research process



Forschungsdatenmanagement an der Universität Bielefeld



Uni Bielefeld > Data > Principles and guidelines on h [...]

Principles and guidelines on handling research data at Bielefeld University

Researchers at Bielefeld University should treat research data* as valuable academic work in line with the following principles:



1.2 The German national landscape for RDM

On the level of learned societies:

- The learned societies for economics (German Economic Association - VfS) and business studies (German Association for Business Research - VHB) name research data management in their code of conduct.
- "Research should be transparent and comprehensible. The underlying assumptions should be clear. For empirical work, the datasets and programs used should be made available to replicate the results, if legally possible." (VfS)
- The German Association for Business Research (VHB) even published a detailed paper on how to document and publish research data.



Themenfeld 5: Umgang mit Daten und Dokumentation des Forschungsprozesses

Die Ergebnisse von Forschungsarbeiten sind nur intersubjektiv überprüfbar, wenn auch ein Zugang zu den Daten gewährt wird bzw. im Nachgang auch deren Überprüfbarkeit sichergestellt wird. Wie kann dieser Zugang sichergestellt werden? Für welchen Zeitraum? Wie kann mit vertraulichen Daten umgegangen werden? Wie werden die Interessen der Autor/innen gewahrt, die die Daten unter Umständen mit viel Aufwand gesammelt haben und nun auch alleine davon profitieren wollen? Wie sollte eine revisionssichere Dokumentation von Forschungsarbeiten aussehen? Welche Sachverhalte insbesondere bei empirischen Untersuchungen (z.B. Projektpläne, Publikationsprojektpläne, Wechsel von Autorenschaften, Anpassung des Rohdatensatzes durch Bereinigungen usw., inhaltliches vs. rechtliches Eigentum an Daten und Erkenntnissen, Art der Mitarbeit usw.) soll in welcher Weise dokumentiert werden, um später zur Klärung von Sachverhalten beitragen zu können? Wie sind diese Unterlagen bzw. auch die verwendeten (Roh-)Daten zu archivieren in welchem Format, mit welchen Sicherungsinstrumenten und für welchen Zeitraum? Wie kann sichergestellt werden, dass die Arbeitsschritte des Forschers aus den ursprünglichen Daten auch nachvollzogen werden können?

Ein notwendiges Kriterium für Wissenschaft besteht in der Nachvollziehbarkeit der erzielten Ergebnisse. Zeitschriften haben deshalb von je her darauf geachtet, dass der Forschungsprozess zur Erzielung der in einem Aufsatz berichteten Ergebnisse angemessen dokumentiert ist. Anders als in den Naturwissenschaften hat sich allerdings keine Kultur der Replikation von Ergebnissen herausgebildet, weshalb auch die Angemessenheit bisheriger Dokumentationen in der Regel nicht geprüft wurde. Ausgelöst durch verschiedene





1.3 The German national landscape for RDM RatSWD.

On the level of research data storage & access:

Currently, the landscape subdivides in two parts:

- For large surveys and data provided by federal statistical offices almost 30 specialised research data centres exist.
- For the 'long tail' of research data generated by projects and non-university research institutes, currently almost no storing opportunities for RD are available.











1.4. The German national landscape for RDM

Registration agency for social and economic dat

DOI-Registration:

- In Germany, the DOI-registration of research data is organised by subject.
- For social sciences' research data the DOI-registration agency da|ra
 (www.da-ra.de/en) takes over the task to mint PIDs for these resources.
- da|ra is a member of the DataCite consortium.
- Joint service of GESIS (Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences) & ZBW.
- Currently 65 data centres and other customers.
- To date, ~433.000 DOIs have been registered by da|ra.





2) ZBW'S APPROACH IN RDM





2.1 Our principles in RDM...

Against the backdrop that ZBW is a specialist library with a national duty, our *general approach* is characterised by a few principles:

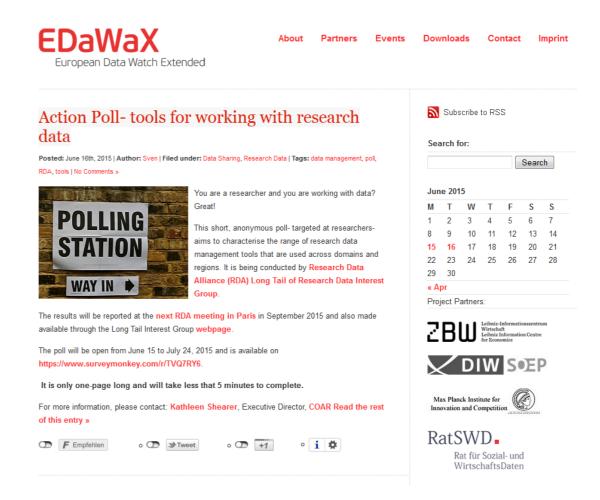
- With our projects and services, we focus on organisations / institutions rather than on single researchers,
- We act in close cooperation with the economic research,
- We orient ourselves to the needs of the community and seek constant feedback from the target group,
- We work with rather than (only) for researchers,
- We act with a strong subject-specific point of view, without neglecting overall developments and discussions,
- We think it us useful to have a *division of responsibilities* in RDM based on complementary skills.





2.2 Some of ZBW's activities in RDM









Registration agency for social and economic data











- da|ra is the German DOI-registration agency for social and economic data. da|ra is part of DataCite.
- Goals: Enable a stable and reliable citability of research data (most often for large datasets in RDCs). Facilitate reuse and discovery of datasets.
- Target group: Mainly economic research data centres & OA journals.
- Partners: Jointly run by GESIS (social sciences) & ZBW (economics)

Some of our customers:











European Data Watch Extended





• Goals:

- Development and implementation of a software to support the management of publication-related research data in economics journals (= software for a data archive; similar to Dataverse).
- Analyses of the current state of data sharing in economic sciences.
- Analyses on data management practises of journals in economics and business research.
- Advise of journal editors (data policies and data archives)
- Target group: Editors of scholarly journals, publishing houses.
- Partners: German Data Forum (RatSWD), Research Data Centre (RDC-SOEP), Max Planck Institute for Competition and Innovation (MCIER)

www.edawax.de (en) and www.journaldata.zbw.eu (en)





Funded by:

SowiDataNet



Goals:

- Development of a technical infrastructure (data repository) to discover and to access institutionally created datasets (for quantitative data).
- Constitution of a research data association for economics and the social sciences in Germany.
- Simple and low-threshold infrastructure component to store research data and for long-term access to data.
- *Target group*: Institutional projects/research groups without personal and/or financial resources for the archiving and documentation of self-compiled datasets.
- Partners: DIW, GESIS, WZB, ZBW.

www.sowidatanet.de (de)





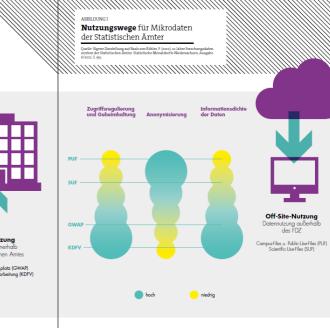


"Guidebook on Research Data"

- Goal: Give information and adivse in RDM topics that are not part of universities' curricula.
- **Target group**: young academics & lecturers
- **Content** (27 pages A4):
 - What are useful sources to procure data?
 - How to cite research data?
 - How to document self-compiled datasets?
 - How and where to store these datasets?
- Partners: ZBW, GESIS, German Data Forum
- Version 2.0 released in Spring 2015.
- www.auffinden-zitieren-dokumentieren.de (de)







3) SUMMARY AND LESSONS LEARNED





3. Summary and lessons learned

- In Germany, we observe a coexistence of activities by universities, non-university research institutes and learned societies in RDM.
- No coordinated approach yet but many institutions are in a state of flux.
- Fragmented RD-infrastructure: Good infrastructure for relevant studies (-> RDCs), but poor support for RD created by projects and smaller institutions.
- ZBW intends to support economists in RDM, especially in areas where currently no services exist (triggered by needs of the research community).

(Some) lessons learned:

- For developing suitable RDM-services, it is crucial to work close with the researchers!
- Services and infrastructures must be low-threshold and must not interfere with the researcher's work.
- The benefits of the support offered must be clearly visible and tangible.





Panel discussion on data sharing at the annual meeting of the learned society ,German Economic Association' (VfS)





EDaWaX's evaluation workshop with editors of journals in economics and business research.





Thank you for your attention!

> Questions?



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Sven Vlaeminck

ZBW - Leibniz-Information Centre for Economics

Hamburg / Germany

Tel.: +49 40 - 42834 419

Email: s.vlaeminck@zbw.eu



