



Report - LIBER Conference Research Data Management Workshop

5th of July 2023

On the 5th of July, before the official program of the [LIBER Annual Conference](#) in Budapest, the LIBER [Research Data Management Working Group](#) held a workshop titled “How to set up data repository services in a university?”. The aim of the workshop was twofold: to share stories on how to build a repository of libraries that already have a data repository, data archive, or data curation service, and to discuss guidance for depositing data into a data repository.

[Roxanne Wyns from KU Leuven Library](#) introduced their generic research data repository (RDR) open to all researchers at the University of Leuven. Their choice of repository, Dataverse, was launched in 2020. Roxanne described in detail the metadata model, workflow, and extensive support and guidelines researchers receive. The University does not have an obligation for researchers to publish in KU Leuven RDR; however, it is strongly recommended.

Her **recommendations** to other libraries are:

- a) have a clear mandate from the university that the library is the designated institution to guide and help researchers with repository and RDM topics;
- b) have people with the necessary skills to execute RDM activities and training;
- c) always check with different stakeholders when setting up repositories and investing into infrastructure and services;
- d) have good institutional requirements for data preservation and prioritise these actions; and
- e) have a budget to do all this.

[Kirsten Kruuse from Aarhus University Library/Royal Danish Library](#) shared the Danish experience in setting up a data repository. An action plan in Denmark was set up in 2010; however, only in 2022 did they reach the implementation of the national strategy for data management. In 2023, a DeIC and Dataverse national repository should be launched. The main problem behind the delay has been staff qualification. In the new data repository, each university will get its part. Libraries at the universities will oversee the institutional Dataverse administration. In addition, the libraries will set up the website, provide guidance, and offer training. There will be a single point of contact with the faculty. DeIC will provide a backup service.

[Claudia Kramer from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology \(KIT\)](#) gave a detailed overview of how to improve the quality of a data repository and the impact of datasets. Her suggestion is to invest in building a solid metadata infrastructure. Her **10 recommendations** for this are to use standardised metadata, implement sufficient support functions, have clear terms and rules for data access, have a clear registration policy, implement persistent identifiers, have data curators to confirm free text metadata fields, raise awareness on the time required for data curation, implement data champions systems, improve discoverability of the data repository, and join re3data.





Data management challenges for researchers

During the group discussion, participants mapped the six most challenging topics for researchers when it comes to data management: 1) GDPR; 2) legal issues; 3) data licensing, 4) data rights; 5) lack of cross-professional approach across institutions; and 6) access conditions.

The group work tackled these challenges and offered some solutions. In addition, the group discussed what kinds of skills and education are required for libraries to face these challenges:

Data rights issues come from different policies (EU, national), data ownership problems, lack of experts, and cooperation between universities. The solution for this could be acquiring more legal expertise, cooperation between universities, institutions, and different stakeholders, and training. Regarding skills, the best solution would be to have tailored training for specific problems to understand different aspects of these legal nuances better. Libraries also need more communication and marketing skills to “sell” our knowledge. Librarians may also need training on how to motivate researchers and offer motivational/emotional support.

Licensing issues arise from a lack of clarity and knowledge and often no institutional policy. The solution is, therefore, to have a clear institutional policy. For training staff, it is highly recommended to add licensing topics into DMPs.

Access conditions are challenged by large datasets, sensitive data, lack of knowledge, and the fact that, generally, researchers seem to like restricted access. Solutions could be raising awareness (also on legal support availability) and training researchers. In addition, it is necessary to set appropriate procedures to restrict access to large data sets. Skills and education on these issues can be solved by broad basic knowledge training. External and internal training with exchange training could be valuable for libraries.

GDPR issues come from historical practices (new ones are hard to adapt), and too many actions in the process, which is poorly organised. The solution could be more cooperation on an institutional level and the setting up a single point of contact as a competence center. Libraries need technical and legal skills that could be faced with international cooperation or training programmes.

All workshop slides can be found [here](#), and [LIBER RDM Working Group](#) always welcomes new members who want to tackle these challenges together.