RDMO

Research Data Management Organiser

The Research Data Management Organiser (RDMO) is a new tool to support the structured planning and implementation of research data management in a scientific project and, in addition, provides the scientist with a textual Data Management Plan (DMP) according to templates provided by funding agencies (e.g. Horizon 2020).

While DMP are in principle a great tool to optimize the data management during all stages of a research project and can serve as a roadmap for the various data management tasks, their current usage is narrowly focused on the requirements of funding agencies. Existing software tools for DMP creation and editing are useful in that respect, but do not support sufficiently the full data life cycle of a project.

RDMO is designed to be a companion for data management issues during and after the whole project. Starting from a structured interview about the project and the data involved, it organizes the data management along tasks and accommodates all relevant stakeholders, i.e. researchers, project or group leaders, institutional data managers, IT departments. Users can retrieve the collected information in various forms while working on the project and keep it up to date as the project evolves. RDMO features an API which can be used for further processing of the collected information by other software tools and allows for an integration into existing work flows, local environments and existing administrative IT infrastructures.

RDMO is designed to be adapted to various situations: The structured interview can be enhanced by adding discipline specific information, e.g. lists of data archives, or institute specific regulations. The questions of the interview, the controlled vocabularies used as options for the answers, and the templates for the different output formats can be customized using a convenient web interface and exported and shared with other RDMO instances using XML files.

Special consideration is given to the installation of RDMO by institutions and universities and its adaptation for discipline-specific or institutional needs. The layout and the look-and-feel of the tool can be themed to match an institutional identity by only adapting a style sheet. RDMO supports several authentication technologies such as Shibboleth, OAuth2, or a LDAP backend. The tool is multilingual (currently German and English).

RDMO is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). End of 2017, we will start our second funding period, focusing on broadening our community and developing a sustainable model for the future of RDMO. The software is open source software and publicly available on GitHub[1].

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[1] https://github.com/rdmorganiser/rdmo