Implementing the DMP Common Standard on the Argos tool for maDMPs

What was the challenge that you addressed?

Moreover, it proved to be a great venue for new challenges to be communicated with the global community (full report was submitted and is pending publication by CODATA journal Special Collection on RDA Results

The RDA output adopted

Argos adopted the RDA DMP Common Standard to align its practices with the global research data community and to maximise information exchange between other DMP tool providers.

Argos is designed as a tool for inclusive use by researchers, funders, research communities or institutions. Researchers are able to create their DMPs in collaboration with other colleagues, learn basic RDM concepts throughout the process and publish DMPs as outputs in an open and FAIR manner by, among other things, assigning DOIs and licenses and by maintaining DMPs as living documents through versioning. At the same time, Argos can be configured and deployed by funders, institutions and research communities. They can plug in their own services and/ or make use of OpenAIRE underlying services that Argos is built with ad-hoc.

It is, therefore, a top priority for Argos to deliver DMP outputs that are by design produced in a standard way and can be further exploited in any DMP platform. By doing so, it prevents information loss and facilitates a seamless/uninterrupted research conduct.

The adoption process

In order to adopt the DMP Common Standard, import and export tools were implemented based on the common standard. The most challenging part of the process was mapping fields between the RDA standard and Argos.

Argos offers a dynamic templating mechanism operated through an administrative user interface that allows admin users to create Dataset templates tailored to their needs. That means that the fields of every dataset in Argos can be different and therefore incompatible against the standard. In order to tackle this challenge, an additional functionality had to be implemented so that the dynamic fields that are added to the Dataset Templates can be mapped into the DMP Common Standard fields.

Benefits of adoption and impact

As mentioned above, by using Argos researchers are able to import and export DMPs from and to other RDA compliant DMP platforms without losing vital information. This is important as it gives researchers the freedom and flexibility to switch providers at any time during the DMP process without worrying about potential consequences, similar to how they would do when working with text documents on cloud drives such as Google Drive or OneDrive, etc.

In addition, research communities and funders that Argos collaborates with indirectly benefit from the RDA DMP Common Standard adoption when configuring their discipline-specific templates or building DMP tools based on Argos software. Another recent example with more direct impact is that of the ARIADNEPlus community, who have developed their own DMP template for archaeological research .

A newer version of the ARIADNEplus template was created in Argos, thus enabling compliance with the RDA standard. Now, .json exports of Argos DMPs using the ARIADNEPlus template will be tested by the community to support the creation of their own template's import mechanism.

Lessons learned

Overall, the Hackathon was very helpful in supporting individual efforts of DMP providers that were happening in parallel. It provided a forum for live interactions with colleagues who have designed the Standard and gave space for collaborations and discussions with other DMP providers along with trial and errors on the spot that improved common understanding and accelerated developments.

The organisation

OpenAIRE is the Pan-European open access e-infrastructure, a pillar to the European Open Science Cloud - EOSC , that ensures interoperability of open access repositories, discoverability of European research outputs and artifacts and their contextualisation in an open scholarly communication research graph. Complementary to the infrastructure, OpenAIRE operates an expert network, namely the National Open Access Desks (NOADs), in more than 34 countries in Europe. NOADs provide tailored support on Open Science matters spanning from policy adoption to technical implementation based on best practices and capacity building to all academic and research stakeholders.

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