

## Agenda

16.01.2018 / IZ

# “If we build it, they will come” – Ways of user involvement in information infrastructure development<sup>1</sup>

*Co-located event of the 11th RDA Plenary*

**Location:** bcc Berlin Congress Center, Alexanderstr. 11, 10178 Berlin

**Date & Time:** 23 March 2018: 14.00h - 16.00h

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### Description of the event:

Various national, transnational and international developments of information infrastructures or research data infrastructures (RDIs) are currently being conceptualized, get implemented and do further emerge. Notable examples are for instance the "National Open Science Cloud" in the Netherlands, the "Open Research Data Infrastructure" in the UK, the "Australian Research Data Cloud", or the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). All over, awareness is raising, that research communities and actual users need to be involved more closely in order to build accepted, fit-for-use services. For the concept of the German Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI), which the German Council for Scientific Information Infrastructures (RfII) has recommended in 2016, a 'tight user involvement from the beginning' is one of the guiding principles for the future development. Mindful of the crucial role of the different stakeholder groups (policy level, infrastructures and scientific users), we want to identify and discuss in this workshop practical ways and potential pitfalls of user-involvement and user-driven development for research data management and infrastructures development and to exchange experiences and views on this important issue.

The discussion is organized in three, parallel, thematic panels and a subsequent plenary discussion. Each of the three panels will be introduced by an elevator statement at the beginning of the workshop. Participants can then join a panel of his or her interest in which a set of key questions will be discussed in a small group around a table. After the table discussions, the rapporteur of each panel presents the results to the plenary, which may ask additional questions.

**Target group:** All stakeholders interested in sustainable information infrastructure development. Max. number of seats: 50



“If we build it, they will come”  
 (Nelson, 2009)

<sup>1</sup> The term information infrastructures means technically and organizationally networked services and facilities for accessing and maintaining databases, information bases and knowledge bases.

## AGENDA

14.00-14.15 Introduction and Elevator Pitch: Lars Bernard (RfII)  
Warm-up

14.15-15.15 Discussion Panels

### (1) Role of policy actors & funders

**Overall topic:** pairing infrastructure development and user demand via policy and funding

**Questions:**

- How can policy actors/funders incentivize user involvement in infrastructure development? Are there successful examples?
- What can policy actors/funders on the national and European level do furthermore to foster user involvement in infrastructure development?
- What can be done in terms of (funding) policy to build functional interdisciplinary information infrastructures and avoid “pillarization” along scientific disciplines?

### (2) Role of infrastructure providers

**Overall topic:** sustainability of infrastructures/services against the background of dynamically changing user needs

**Questions:**

- What are current best practices and practical problems of user involvement in infrastructure development?
- How do infrastructure providers deal with dynamically changing user demands for services and with new technologies?
- The hen and egg problem: Do users themselves need to develop RDM literacy and a research data culture or can this result from offering user-demanded services by the infrastructure providers?
- In what way can and should users be integrated in business, organizational and operation models of infrastructure providers?

### (3) Role of users and research communities

**Overall topic:** self-organization of users/research communities regarding data culture

**Questions:**

- How can users/research communities organize to shape the service portfolios they need?
- Could the (co-)definition of data quality criteria by users/research communities be a means for participation in service development?
- The hen and egg problem: Do users themselves need to develop RDM literacy and a research data culture or can this result from offering user-demanded services by the infrastructure providers?
- In what way can and should users be integrated in business, organizational and operation models of infrastructure providers?

15.15-16.45 Presentation and discussion of the results

16.45 – 16.00 Summary