Innovative practices in Digital Preservation Data Life Cycle Management (DLCM): A Swiss Initiative

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ABSTRACT
In this workshop, we show how researchers and information professionals are supported throughout the data life-cycle in order to ensure innovative and professional digital preservation in Switzerland.

Keywords
Data life-cycle management; research data management; digital preservation; Swiss initiative; best practices

1. INTRODUCTION
Managing research data throughout lifecycles is a key prerequisite not only for effective data sharing but also for efficient long-term preservation. Timely management of research data greatly facilitates their long-term preservation at the end of the research cycle and might save precious time and resources by avoiding unnecessary duplication of work. Data archiving and preservation are important components of a good data management plan and taking ahead of time decisions on requirements for such a preservation process facilitates data re-use and discovery.

Yet, one main question to explore during this workshop will be the following: How can we best support and effectively reach researchers and information professionals on a national level regarding best innovative practices in digital preservation so as to succeed in this ambitious enterprise?

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES
One of the primary objectives of the Data Lifecycle Management project (DLCM) is to provide sustainable and tangible solutions to implement research data lifecycle management in Switzerland. In doing so, this project aims at consolidating and further developing collaboration, while in a first step promoting coordination between eight Swiss higher education institutions (EPFL, UNIGE, ETHZ, UZH, UNIBAS, HEG, HES-SO, and SWITCH). Building on existing resources and tools at national and international levels, the DLCM team targets the setting up of the needed services that allow efficient managing of active research data, and ensure publication, long-term reference and preservation of subsets of data selected by researchers. At the term of this project, the DLCM team aspires in the near future to offer and propose its resources and services to other institutions, which either lack experience in this field and/or do not have any infrastructure for managing scientific data.

3. PROJECT CONTENT
What could be the best practices to preserve and manage digital materials on a national level? To summarize, the Swiss project encompasses a range of pilot implementations of DLCM solutions, from hard sciences to digital humanities. Guidelines and data management plan (DMP) checklist and templates, which are essential tools for providing researchers with the incentive to manage and be able to preserve their data, have been customized for Switzerland based on pre-existing national and international policies. These resources are currently available through a recently launched national portal: www.dlcm.ch [1]. Since DLCM of research data touches on many questions, which include, but are not limited, to data organization, file formats, metadata as well as legal and regulatory aspects, important outcomes of this project are the training (in person and online) of the end-users and the offering of best practices consulting in crucial DLCM areas.

4. AIM OF THE WORKSHOP
With this background, this workshop aims at providing the unique opportunity to share the insights, experiences and best practices regarding innovative practices regarding long-term preservation of research data. This Swiss DLCM project, with its experience gained from concrete implementations, and which involves at the various partner institutions research units, IT services, and libraries – will serve as springboard for promoting and animating the discussion and debate across countries and continents. The audience for this workshop will target large communities of researchers nationally and internationally.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

6. TARGET AUDIENCE
This workshop is especially designed for researchers, information professionals, practitioners, librarians, IT specialists, as well as everyone interested in digital preservation's best practices.

7. REFERENCES
[1] Data Life-Cycle Management national portal funded by Swissuniversities: www.dlcm.ch.