The sciebo.RDS Project: Who says research data management has to be complicated?

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1. Summary

The sciebo.RDS project aims to create easy-to-use, integrated research data management workflows for scientists. Based on the established cloud storage service "sciebo - the Campuscloud", we will develop tools and interfaces that serve this purpose optimally. In concrete terms, tools for creating data management plans, tools for data analyses, and repositories for long-time archiving have to be connected and integrated. The project is oriented towards specific use cases, especially from the humanities, and always closely aligned to the users' needs.

2. Content

With the increasing importance of research data, triggered by the rapidly advancing digitalization of research in numerous disciplines, the need for structured research data management (RDM) is growing significantly as well. For good reasons, the value of research data depends enormously on whether there is a data management plan with information about how to use the data, whether the data is organized, structured, and clearly named, and whether it is stored securely, accessible and searchable.

However, such an enhancement of research data comes at a price: It requires a lot of work and resources. But most researchers at universities have neither the time nor the skills for RDM by the book. In fact, RDM is a complex and demanding task, on the one hand, and tedious due to redundant work, on the other –both due to the fact that several unconnected systems have to be used at the moment. It is hardly surprisingly that this results in a very low implementation rate in practice, as several studies have shown.

To solve this problem, a simplification of the process is needed: The idea of sciebo.RDS is to connect several all tools used in RDM with an easy-to-use and integrated interface so that researchers are guided through the entire process - from the data management plan to long-term archiving. This workflow is based on the well-established university cloud storage service "sciebo", which is already used by many scientists for collaboration and short-term data storage during research.

The sciebo.RDS project will initially be funded for three years by the German Research Foundation (DFG). During the project period, the focus will be on workflows for faculties who are less familiar with RDM, e.g. the humanities. Consequently, the project begins by determining the faculties' requirements on the basis of real use cases. In the context of the project, we will also conduct some research on the validation of research data to prevent fraud. This could be achieved by using blockchain technology.

3. AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

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