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openRDM.swiss: a national research data management service for the Swiss scientific community

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Funding agencies, journals, and academic institutions frequently require research data to be published according to the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) principles. To achieve this, every step of the research process needs to be accurately documented, and data needs to be securely stored, backed up, and annotated with sufficient metadata to make it re-usable and re-producible. The use of an integrated Electronic Lab Notebook (ELN) and Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), with data management capabilities, can help researchers towards this goal. ETH Zürich Scientific IT Services (SIS) has developed such a platform, openBIS, for over 10 years in close collaboration with ETH scientists, to whom it is provided as a service on institutional infrastructure.

openBIS is open source software that can be used by any academic and non-for-profit organization; however, the implementation of a data management platform requires dedicated IT resources and skills that some research groups and institutes do not have. In order to address this, ETH SIS has recently launched the national openRDM.swiss project. openRDM.swiss offers research data management as a service to the Swiss research community, based on the openBIS platform. The service is available either as a cloud-hosted version on the SWITCHengines infrastructure, or as a self-hosted version using local infrastructure. The cloud-hosted version, with optional JupyterHub integration for data analysis, will be available via the recently launched SWITCHhub, a national marketplace for digital solutions tailored to research. In addition, openRDM.swiss includes training activities so that researchers can successfully adopt the new service in their laboratories. Finally, the project plans to improve interoperability with other data management and publication services, in particular research data repositories including the ETH Research Collection and Zenodo.

Type of abstract

Presentation

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