Learning to Share - The Road to a Hungarian National Data Publishing Policy

A joint bid by the University of Debrecen and the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (LIC-HAS) was awarded an RDA Europe 4.0 Adoption grant, with the aim of employing RDA Recommendations in the evaluation of the already existing data repositories in Hungary and establishing a standardised approach to managing research data workflows.

The challenge

Hungarian researchers face both infrastructural and policy related challenges when it comes to research data management. Regarding the available infrastructure, there are three institutional data repositories, which are registered in the re3data registry. However, many universities and research institutions operate databases which contain research data. These databases are created by researchers, so they don't use library/publishing standards. Although it seems to be an adequate solution for them, basic repository functions, such as, for example, automatic data exchange and long-term, sustainable operation, are not guaranteed.

Hungary currently does not have any strategy regarding scientific research data management. Researchers adhere to disciplinary, institutional rules, and even more so to specific research group practices when it comes to collecting, curating and archiving data. However, they need to meet funders' and publishers' requirements in data management and publishing. In lack of institutional or national standards, RDA Outputs, which include the technical and social infrastructure solutions, provide the necessary support and guidance to start implementing and coordinating data management practices in different levels and establishing data repositories.

The RDA outputs adopted

Two RDA Recommendations were combined in this project to create on the one hand a data management package for data repositories as basic standard of operations, and on the other hand for researchers, as a guideline for choosing a repository and uploading research data: Repository Audit and Certification DSA–WDS Partnership WG Recommendations and the RDA/WDS Publishing Data Workflows WG Recommendations.

Adopting RDA recommended repository certification and data publishing workflows has benefits both on institutional and national levels:

1. They help establish institutional data repositories and standardise the existing ones;
2. They support the international certification and help to synchronise the operation and the workflow of Hungarian data repositories;
3. They encourage researchers to document their collected research data early in the research workflow reducing the burden that researchers associate with the data depositing process;
4. They support data publication which includes data preparation tasks with the help of institutional repositories (managing access rights, quality assurance etc.) and making data available and reusable through these platforms

Benefits of adoption and impact

We hope our work will foster research data archiving among Hungarian researchers and research institutions and establishing new, standard data repositories and publishing processes. The automatic data exchange can help to

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upload research data's metadata to the Hungarian Scientific Bibliographic Database (MTMT) and support interoperability among operational and developing repositories. The metadata of research data could be used to create statistics and to support several decision-making processes. We would like to support the collaboration between researchers, librarians, research institutions and funders.

The adoption process

We created a special Hungarian evaluation protocol based on the Repository Audit and Certification DSA–WDS Partnership WG Recommendations; required in order to adapt the document according to Hungarian conditions because not all recommendations are currently realisable in Hungarian institutions. The first step to facilitate the adoption process was to translate the documents and publish them on the openaccess.mtak.hu website. The evaluation protocol was then asked to be completed by two operational data repositories. Unfortunately, we realised the Recommendations contain a lot of requirements, which aren't feasible for our partners. Therefore, we are working on a new, more customised version of the evaluation protocol and developing more guidelines for further improvements.

The RDA Recommendation on the data publishing workflow

was also translated and disseminated on the open.access. hu website as a first step to introducing it to the Hungarian researchers. The RDA guidelines are planned to be included in the operations of the institutional data repository (a beta version is currently released) at the University Library of Debrecen. The repository homepage contains a quick access button to the Recommendation document which is basically a summary of the RDA Output showing the uploading and publishing alternatives and processes.

The ultimate goal is to connect these two adoption workflows. As the initial difficulties with the adoption process are overcome and new, more tailored versions of the Recommendations can be tested locally, the workflows will be ready to be merged and introduced as well on a national level.

Lessons learned

We experienced that our project has been well received. This project confirmed our previous assumption that Hungarian research groups need guidance and help in research data management issues. There is a huge demand for institutional support systems, including data stewards, which can assist the work of the research group during the research process: customising the workflow, collecting, cleaning, describing, and archiving data in accordance with the latest research data management trends. In order to start nationwide pilot studies based on these Recommendations, infrastructural (i.e. storage) requirements and a support system needs to be developed. Grants, such as the RDA Europe Adoption Grant, help us to take the first steps on the long road ahead of us towards a national data management policy and practices.

About The Organisations

The Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has dedicated itself to supporting scientific and scholarly research since its foundation in 1826. The library operates the Hungarian Scientific Bibliographic Database (MTMT) which stores the metadata of scientific papers and

research data published by Hungarian researchers. MTMT's Repository Audit Committee monitors repositories which are in contact with MTMT. With the adoption of the RDA Recommendations we would like to help the Hungarian universities and research institutes to found their own research data repositories.

The University of Debrecen (UD) is a central player in Hungarian higher education. It has outstanding educational, research, and innovation capacities in international comparison, and plays a major role in the realisation of national strategyobjectives. The University and National Library of the University (DEENK) has been a central unit of the university. The Library has been actively involved in open access initiatives both on national

and international levels (EUROPEANA, PEER-Project, OpenAIRE, COAR, NI4OS-Europe). The library was the first among higher education libraries in Hungary to establish and manage an institutional repository (DEA) with a focus on self-archiving and open access publishing and recently is in the process of setting up an institutional data repository.

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