

Report

TRAINING SEMINAR  
E-INFRASTRUCTURES AND RESEARCH DATA STEWARDSHIP



Training seminar e-infrastructures  
and research data stewardship

e-Infrastructures Austria  
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## Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Organization of the training seminar and results.....	4
<b>2.1. Organization</b> .....	4
<b>2.2. Course</b> .....	4
<b>2.3. Program</b> .....	5
2.3.1. Lecturers .....	6
2.3.2. Documentation of Discussions .....	6
<b>2.4. Evaluation and feedback</b> .....	7
3. Summary and concluding remarks.....	8
Appendix A – Program.....	9
Appendix B – Program Booklet.....	10

## 1. Introduction

The four-day "Training seminar for research data stewardship and e-infrastructures" was designed and performed as part of the project e-Infrastructures Austria for the last year of the project and targeted at representatives from libraries, research services and IT services that build repositories and research support services at their institutes. The aim of the event was to provide knowledge sharing in research data management and workflows for research processes and digital archiving.

The training seminar was aimed primarily at people in the 26 partner institutions, who are in long-term charge of the development of institutional e-infrastructures and research data management services, and therefore subsequently would act as a contact person as well. This should be perceived as a comprehensive event, intended to intensify a awareness-based analysis of technical, organizational and legal issues. The training seminar is complementary to existing training opportunities and for the first time is mediated in a structured and coherent form of knowledge about research data management, support, development costs, policies and the research life cycle. For this reason, it has made a lasting contribution to project column C of the project e-Infrastructures Austria ("building a knowledge network" – see also <http://e-infrastructures.at/en/the-project/objectives/subproject-c/>)

The knowledge brokers were experts from the fields of science community, academic libraries, repository management, IT leads, research services and law.

In the pilot event described below, neither a certified credit system nor a test form was provided. The participants received a certificate of participation as proof of active participation and were able to update their knowledge in the field of e-Infrastructures. The cost of the first training course was, excluding travel expenses and accommodation, borne for all participants by the project e-Infrastructures Austria. The speakers expressed their willingness to speak without fees.

The event took place from 6th-9th June 2016 in Elise Richter Hall in the main building of the University of Vienna at Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna.

## 2. Organization of the training seminar and results

### 2.1. Organization

The target group for the event was to be at least two representatives from the 26 e-Infrastructures Austria Project partners (representatives from libraries, research services and IT services), i.e. at least 54 participants. The individual modules – including the legal modules – were led by two or three speakers (see 2.3.1. below). To satisfy the resulting number of more than 70 people – including lecturers and organizers – the Elise Richter Hall in the main building of the University of Vienna was rented for the four days of the event.

The event was announced by e-mail among project partners. Curriculum and lecturers were presented at the 7th General Assembly on 14 April 2016 with a call to all of the partners that they should nominate participants from their respective institutions no later than mid-May. On May 3, 2016 an official PDF invitation email was issued to all partners containing the key data for the event.

The project management set up a bilingual (English and German) seminar website (<http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/>) by 12 May 2016 with a detailed program and biographies of the speakers using the registration tool Eventbrite.

75 people registered for the event, whereas 72 people, including lecturers, actually participated. The 52 listeners represent the following stakeholder groups: 28 people from libraries, 11 people from IT services, 12 people from research services and one person from the scientific community. A total of 19 presenters came from eleven different research institutions and from the fields of libraries, IT services, research services, science, funding agency and legal advice. Overall, the participants stemmed from 24 Austrian research institutions.

For all participants of e-Infrastructures Austria, seminar portfolios were prepared with program notes, a participant list, a pad and a USB stick. The program booklet contained a schedule as well as abstracts from the individual modules and biographies of all speakers. See also Appendix B and the full program brochure that can be downloaded at:

[http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/k\\_e\\_seminar/dokumente/Programmheft.pdf](http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/k_e_seminar/dokumente/Programmheft.pdf)

### 2.2. Course

Most modules were designed as 90-minute units, 30 minutes of which were reserved for discussions. For the module “Data Management Plans”, there was a total of 120 minutes available in order to enable a joint discussion with a representative from the research funding sector. Legal issues were covered in two 90-minute units and in an additional 60-minute unit. The individual modules were led by at least two lecturers with the exception of the legal modules. All presentations were made available electronically one week after the training seminar and with a free license (available for downloading at: <http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/en/program/> and at <http://phaidra.univie.ac.at/o:441296>). The discussions were recorded in order to facilitate access to account findings for the planning of any other events (see 2.3.2. below).

### 2.3. Program

The program of the training course was conceived in the summer of 2015 in a first draft jointly by the project management and the steering committee of e-Infrastructures Austria (<http://e-infrastructures.at/struktur/steering-committee/>) and then subsequently created. In December 2015 and February 2016, the program was adjusted in joint meetings with the synergies team of e-Infrastructures Austria (<http://e-infrastructures.at/struktur/synergies-team/>) and then lecturers were sought. The basic idea was to provide a mix of presenters ranging from those in libraries, IT services, research services and the scientific community – in order to highlight the subject of digital data management from different perspectives.

During the event, the following presenters led the presentation modules and the subsequent discussions: Paolo Budroni (project e-Infrastructures Austria), Bruno Bauer (Chairman of the GM e-Infrastructures Austria) and Raman Ganguly (Technical project manager of e-Infrastructures Austria).

The program consisted of 13 modules and a moderated final discussion. Paolo Budroni initiated the event with words of welcome and the short video “Vision on Open Science” (<http://www.dtls.nl/5825-2/>), and then after that, the training seminar opened with the presentation of two use cases, which represented a broad picture of research data: Namely, projects in the field of Digital Humanities (special research area: “German in Austria”) and from climate research (report from Climate Change Centre Austria – CCCA Data Center). All presenters were given abstracts in advance of these two use cases, with the charge to refer to these two examples if possible.

Thematically, the presentations offered a range of organizational, technical and legal questions:

- Use Cases from the fields of Digital Humanities and Climate Research
- Digital workflow model, preservation and erasability
- Role models (incl. IT) skills, responsibilities
- Requirements Management/Use Cases
- Life Cycle Management: The digital object, content models
- Establishment of an institutional focal point for research support
- Data Management Plans (DMP)
- Legal & Ethical Issues I and Legal & Ethical Issues II
- Operation, Service and Support
- Financing models, estimation of costs and resources
- Metadata in the field of repositories and research data
- Terms for repositories

The program of the entire event is listed under Appendix A; The abstracts of all modules under: <http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/en/program/>

### 2.3.1. Lecturers

The variety of presentations was also reflected in the different professional backgrounds of the lecturers. The total of 19 presenters came from the fields of libraries (7), IT services (7), research services (1), science (2) and legal advice (1) and from 11 different scientific institutions in Austria and Germany:

- Amini, Seyavash, *Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz University of Hanover*
- Birkner, Michael, *Chamber of Labor Vienna*
- Blumesberger, Susanne, *University of Vienna*
- Breuer, Ludwig Maximilian, *University of Vienna*
- Budroni, Paolo, *University of Vienna*
- Eberle, Harald, *Vorarlberg Provincial Library*
- Ferus, Andreas, *Academy of Fine Arts Vienna*
- Ganguly, Raman, *University of Vienna*
- Guma, Florin, *University of Salzburg*
- Kraus, Wolfgang, *University of Vienna*
- Miksa, Tomasz, *Vienna University of Technology*
- Novotny, Gertraud, *Vienna University of Economics*
- Rauber, Andreas, *Vienna University of Technology*
- Sánchez Solís, Barbara, *University of Vienna*
- Schrauf, Cornelia, *Vienna Science and Technology Fund*
- Schubert, Chris, *Climate Change Center Austria data center*
- Sefelin, Reinhard, *Vienna University of Economics*
- Szepe, Stefan, *University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna*
- Wloka, Bartholomäus, *University of Vienna*

For a majority of the talks, it was possible to present the module with a “technical” (IT) and an “organizational” (libraries/research services/researcher) representative. The profiles of all lecturers can be accessed at the following page: <http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/en/lecturers/>

### 2.3.2. Documentation of Discussions

To filter out which questions for the participants were important or what topics should still be pursued for further events of this kind, questions and discussions were documented in writing within the lecture modules. A general evaluation can be found in the chapter “Summary and conclusions”.

## 2.4. *Evaluation and feedback*

The training course was evaluated in order to review opinions of the participants so that training initiatives in the future would benefit from this input. Immediately after the event, an online survey was sent to all participants with the request of providing feedback about the seminar as soon as possible. Some 45 of 72 participants completed the questionnaire. The results can be read in Appendix E. The evaluation notes in the free text fields yielded valuable and practical insights to aid in designing future training formats. Combining the perspective of two or three lecturers with different professional foci was considered a positive idea, although some lectures were perceived as overly technical. The participation of each researcher was considered a source of insight, providing perspectives that can be heard and evaluated, bringing an advantage into the development of formats and designs. It was suggested that in future events, less theoretical treatises and more practical information should be offered. For example, a short pooled case study from a research data project in the Netherlands or a specific calculation example of digital archiving was perceived as very useful. More feedback suggested that other group exercises could be planned in and the use cases, which were presented at the beginning of the event, should be increasingly more frequently used for subsequent presentations.

Especially much discussion was needed in the legal modules “Legal & Ethical Issues” and “Terms and Conditions for Repositories. It was suggested that in future the program might be possibly separated between a presentation segment and a question segment, whereas a separate unit could be set aside for project-specific questions. Specifically mentioned in the legal field was the need for even more detailed information on data protection, and the suggestion of covering project contracts and service contracts as well as different types of employment contracts at scientific establishments, and possibly even engaging representatives from human resources departments to come. Pronounced was also a desire for international experts in research management, for example, to invite such experts from the UK.

The participants were basically very satisfied with the organizational framework, but it was suggested several times that the event be shortened to three days, since it is not always easy to take time off for such a longer period.

### 3. Summary and concluding remarks

The discussions of the participants and lecturers and the evaluation of their feedback have revealed a clear need for knowledge acquisition in the fields of research data management and related e-infrastructures. The majority of the representatives from the research-supporting services sector has been or is already faced with individual, specific aspects of digital data management. For this reason, the future relevance of the subject is recognized. At the event, partakers repeatedly expressed the request that they wanted to be prepared for possible forthcoming policy changes and expansions, and that they wanted to be informed on current developments.

The need for information is also reflected by the requests and wishes of the researchers which are regularly received at institutional research services. The need for support and guidance in research data management was also a clear message from a larger-scale survey that was carried out throughout Austria under the auspices of the e-Infrastructures Austria project in early 2015 among researchers from 20 public universities and three non-university research institutions.<sup>1</sup>

In presentations and discussions during the event, the question arose repeatedly about how roles among the representatives from the fields of science, data management and IT should be defined and how responsibilities should be shared. It was discussed as well, from when and in what form the various groups should collaborate with each other and what new professions are emerging which should handle the new requirements. A greater amount of the more active participation and several specific issues that were brought up were predominantly those in the legal field.

Overall, the training seminar was seen as a valuable, well-organized event for facilitators of research supporting services. Most participants expressed that they would like that such an event be repeated as well as that it be held regularly. To meet the desire for more training, possibly an extension of the event to five days or a splitting into two separate modules would have to be made, even if this would be contrary to the feedback of some participants.

The knowledge of research data management and its related instruments, in both the technical as well as organizational aspects, should be so properly aligned that the requirements stemming from digital data management can be met quickly and efficiently by the research organizations. The development of centralized expertise could offer an important source of support in this case. There could theoretically exist a hub to field requests concerning data management, and, through networking at home and abroad, developments could be observed, and findings could then be summarized and this information could be relayed further. The project e-Infrastructures Austria, with its established governance structure and diverse communication channels, has proven to be an ideal platform for knowledge transfer and an engine for knowledge-based networking.

In order to secure a structured form of knowledge transfer, a continuation of training formats under a single “umbrella brand” like e-Infrastructures Austria would be effective; after the end of the project, a financing model would naturally have to be developed to foster its self-sustainment. Consolidating the multipliers all over Austria proved to be very beneficial both organizationally and financially. For future initiatives, it would be recommended to secure the training format within ongoing programs in human resources development and training.

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<sup>1</sup> See also: *Forschende und ihre Daten. Ergebnisse einer österreichweiten Befragung – Report 2015. Version 1.2. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.32043*

## Appendix A – Program

For details see: <http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/en/program/>

### Monday, 6. June 2016

ab 11:30		Get-together
12:30-12:45	P. Budroni	Welcome address und Importance of e-infrastructures
12:45-15:00	L. M. Breuer, C.Schubert, B.Wloka	Presentation of Two 2 Use Cases in the Fields of Digital Humanities und Climate Research
15:00-15:30	Break	
15:30-17:00	R. Ganguly, W. Kraus	Digital Workflow Models, Preservation and Deletability

### Tuesday, 7. June 2016

09:00-10:30	A. Ferus, F. Guma, R. Sefelin	Role Models (including IT), Competencies, Areas of Responsibility
10:30-11:00		Break
11:00-12:30	M. Birkner, S. Blumesberger	Requirements Management/Use Cases
12:30-13:30		Lunch break
13:30-15:00	A Rauber, C. Schubert	Life Cycle Management: The Digital Object, Content Models
15:00-15:30		Break
15:30-17:00	P. Budroni, B. Sánchez Solís	Establishing an Institutional Service Centre for Research Support

### Wednesday, 8. June 2016

09:00-11:00	T. Miksa, B. Sánchez Solís, C. Schrauf	Data Management Plans (DMP)
11:00-11:30		Break
11:30-13:00	S. Amini	Legal & Ethical Issues I
13:00-14:00		Lunch Break
14:00-15:00	S. Amini	Legal & Ethical Issues II
15:00-15:30		Break
15:30-17:00	H. Eberle, G. Novotny	Operations, Service, Support

### Thursday, 9. June 2016

09:00-10:30	P. Budroni, R. Ganguly	Finance Models, Cost Calculations and Resource Requirements
10:30-11:00		Break
11:00-12:30	S. Blumesberger, S. Szepe	Metadata in the Areas of Repositories and Research Data
12:30-13:30		Lunch Break
13:30-15:00	S. Amini	Terms of Use for Repositories
15:00-15:30		Break
15:30-17:00	P. Budroni (Moderator)	Closing discussion

## Appendix B – Program Booklet

Program booklet with general course description, schedule, abstracts, presenters, project description and listing of all e-Infrastructures project partners Austria for downloading at:

[http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/k\\_e\\_seminar/dokumente/Programmheft.pdf](http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/k_e_seminar/dokumente/Programmheft.pdf)  
(only available in German)



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Seminar website: <http://e-seminar.univie.ac.at/en/>  
Presentations of the lecturers at: <http://phaidra.univie.ac.at/o:441296>

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