The Front Office-Back Office model: supporting research data management in the Netherlands

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DANS (Data Archiving and Networked Services)

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What is DANS?

Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy and Research Funding Organisation (KNAW & NWO) since 2005

First predecessor dates back to 1964 (Steinmetz Foundation), Historical Data Archive 1989

Mission: promote and provide permanent access to digital research information
DANS services

EASY: Electronic Archiving System

NARCIS: Gateway to scholarly information in the Netherlands

Data Seal of Approval

Persistent Identifier

URN:NBN resolver
FOBO: policy context

• Data sharing and with this RDM is rapidly gaining importance

• Funders demand OA to publicly funded research data, implying the long-term preservation of these data in TDRs

• University libraries are looking for new roles in the digital age

"The coolest thing to do with your data will be thought of by someone else"
The federated data infrastructure: a collaborative framework

Data Users

Basic Technical Infrastructure:
- SURFsara, Target, ...

Back Offices:
- DANS, 3TU.Datacentrum, ...

Front offices:
- Local Data Facilities (University Libraries)
- Domain-Specific Research Infrastructures

Data Generators

User functions: data capture and transfer

Community Support Services

Common Data Services:
- Archiving, Access, ...

Common Data Services:
- Storage, Backups, ...

Trust

Data Curation

Common Data Services:
- Archiving, Access, ...

Common Data Services:
- Storage, Backups, ...

User functions: data capture and transfer
FO-BO Institutions

- **Front offices**
  - Universities (libraries, local data centers)
  - Disciplinary research infrastructures (ESFRI/NL-National Roadmap)

- **Back offices**
  - DANS (humanities, social sciences)
  - 3TU.Datacentrum (technical sciences)
  - ...

-> Trusted digital repositories!
Building a bridge Together

Supporting data curation through the front office / back office model

The data centers DANS and 3TU.Datacentrum aim to improve their services by creating a front office / back office model together with the universities. The recent cooperation between Leiden University Libraries and DANS and 3TU.Datacentrum provides the first use case of this new model. This shows that by cooperating, we build an efficient and solid infrastructure that supports data sharing now and in the future.

Benefits for researchers
- Researchers benefit from increased data curation knowledge at FO
- Researchers have better access to sustainable storage of their data
- Researchers gain time by engaging in data management in an early stage

Benefits for front office (FO)
- FO benefits from data storage facilities at BO
- FO benefits from BO's knowledge on data curation
- FO supports library's mission to be a partner in research

Benefits for back office (BO)
- BO benefits from well trained FO contact persons for researchers
- BO benefits from direct contact with their target group through FO
- BO acquires more data that are better prepared for archiving and reuse
Services in the model

• Information and awareness raising

• Training (data librarians and researchers)

• Storage (during and after the research)
Roles and responsibilities: the Front Office

- **Focus on information and awareness raising:**
  - Information portal research community
  - Awareness raising, support and training research community
  - Supporting VREs (research tools, data storage during research; Sharepoint, Dataverse, etc.; transfer for long-term archiving in trusted digital repository)
  - Liaising with back office
  - Data acquisition
Roles and responsibilities: the Back Office

- **Focus on expertise and long term storage:**
  - Providing expertise to the research community: training courses
  - Providing expertise to the front office: training courses for data experts, consultancy, contact persons
  - Expertise and innovation in the area of permanent storage, data management and re-use of data
  - Long term preservation of data in a **trusted** digital repository
Research Data Netherlands

• Mission: the promotion of sustained access and responsible re-use of digital research data

• Existing collaboration DANS-3TU.Datacentrum (training data experts, Dutch Dataprize)

• Expanding collaboration back office function

• Open to other trusted digital repositories
Future challenges

• Expanding the model over all universities (institutional agreements)
• Developing a business model to cover the costs
• Creating one single back office “desk” (RDNL)

• Creating a technical infrastructure for automatic data ingest
• Integrating access to the research data
Infrastructure for automatic data ingest

Dataverse Network

Released Dataverses

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SharePoint
Integrating access to research data
Integrating access to research data

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II. Language and Literature Data
Integrating access to research data

How A Lightweight Data Availability Policy Works
Thank you very much for your attention

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DANS is an institute of KNAW en NWO