

Research Data Management at Ruhr University Bochum

Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) has adopted institutional guidelines and maintains an established infrastructure for the professional management of research data. Researchers can draw on central support services when planning and implementing their research data management (RDM). These services include organizational, technical, and advisory support and ensure compliance with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).

The central point of contact for research data management at RUB is the **Research Data Services (RDS)** team, which brings together staff from the University Library and IT.SERVICES. The RDS team provides researchers with **individualized consultation** on all aspects of data management, including the creation of data management plans (DMPs), compliance with research funders' requirements for handling research data (e.g. DFG, BMFT, EU), the selection of appropriate repositories, legal frameworks, and the licensing and publication of data. In addition, the RDS team offers comprehensive training program for researchers within the University Alliance Ruhr - the **RDM Curriculum**. Tailored training formats for Research Training Groups (RTGs) or Collaborative Research Centers (CRCs) can also be provided upon request. To enable researchers to directly exchange and discuss their practical experiences and best practices with one another, the RDS coordinates the RUB's internal **RDM Expert Network**.

To support the implementation of various aspects of RDM, RUB offers its researchers access to a range of tools:

The **RDMO (Research Data Management Organizer)** software is available at RUB for the structured creation and updating of data management plans. This ensures that research data management is systematically planned as early as the proposal phase and documented throughout the course of the project.

During the project's duration, research data can be stored and processed on RUB's local IT infrastructure. This includes **central network drives** and server solutions provided by IT.SERVICES, featuring regulated access management and regular backup procedures. The **Sciebo university cloud** is available for collaborative work. The institutional **GitLab** instance can be used for version control of research data, scripts, and software, as well as for transparent and reproducible analysis workflows. These services ensure data security, traceability of changes, and structured collaboration within project teams.

To ensure the long-term preservation and publication of research data, RUB operates the **institutional repository ReSeeD**. Suitable datasets can be archived and published through ReSeeD. Data sets are assigned persistent identifiers (e.g., DOI), made citable, and described using standardized metadata. This supports their findability, accessibility, and reusability in accordance with the FAIR principles. In addition, the RDS Team provides guidance on selecting discipline-specific repositories when appropriate for the field. RUB researchers also have access to the state-wide RDM platform **Coscine** for the preservation of their research data. Coscine supports the structured storage of research data with metadata and the documentation of research data.

Overall, Ruhr University Bochum thus provides an integrated research data infrastructure that combines consulting services, planning tools, secure storage solutions, collaborative development environments, and institutional publishing and archiving services. Researchers can refer to these established services in funding proposals to demonstrate that they use institutional support for the quality-assured collection documentation, storage, publication, and long-term preservation of their research data throughout the entire project. This infrastructure supports compliance with research funders' requirements and facilitates the implementation of the FAIR principles.