

NFDI @ JCSDL 2022 (23.06.2022)

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Panel discussion with NFDI4Health, NFDI4Biodiversity, NFDI4Microbiota, and KonsortSWD

Title of the panel discussion

"Everything FAIR and Open? Restrictions on data publications"

Speaker(s) / Contact

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The planned duration of the workshop

max. 90 min.

Short summary of the topic

The German National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI), which will consist of around 30 domain-specific consortia, has the mission to make research data available following the FAIR principles and to help implement Open Science practices. This goes far beyond the provision of required hardware and services but also includes training, awareness building, quality measures, trust, and much more - it should facilitate a general cultural shift inside of the scientific system. As a result of this, cornerstones of the scientific method like transparency and reproducibility will be increased and research becomes more efficient. Because of the availability of data, it is expected that completely new research questions can be answered in the future.

While Open and FAIR are two sides of the same medal, they do not necessarily require each other - research data can be open while not being FAIR and vice-versa [1]. And while following an „open per default“ approach is clearly recommended in science, there are cases in which openness needs to be limited due to other values like privacy (e.g. when working with sensitive patient data), national and international conventions and regulations, or nature conservation (e.g. when working with endangered species).

In this panel, representatives of several NFDI consortia from the life sciences fields (NFDI4Health, NFDI4Biodiversity, NFDI4Microbiota) and KonsortSWD, representing the Social Sciences are invited to shed light on the common practices and hurdles in their community in terms of data sharing. We aim to discuss the need for and the limits of openness and how despite restricted access reproducibility could be granted. We will also cover topics like the recent developments on the Nagoya Protocol, which regulates internationally the access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources. Some nations would like to extend the agreement to also include access to Digital Sequence Information (DSI) which could hamper biodiversity research significantly. Such a change would also affect the mode of operation for some NFDI consortia.

Furthermore, we want to collect ideas on how models of data sharing established in different communities and NFDI consortia can be reused to facilitate openness, especially for data with restricted access.

We envision a format that brings together the perspective of different scientific fields in the context of research data infrastructure presented by experience representative of these domains. Additionally, we plan to engage the audience with interactive surveys and feedback channels, and dedicated question slots.

[1] <https://www.go-fair.org/resources/faq/ask-question-difference-fair-data-open-data/>