

Securing endangered data sets: Infrastructure and support services in North Rhine-Westphalia

Global political developments impact the security of data collected by researchers. The threat of data being deleted irretrievably requires immediate action.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, we already have access to interconnected infrastructures¹ for data recovery: Our storage infrastructure for research data available across universities consists of DataStorage.nrw and DataArchive.nrw, which is accessible via the research data platform Coscine.nrw. In addition, DataPublication.nrw, a state-wide research data repository, is currently being developed. The state initiative LZV.nrw contributes expertise on long-term availability to the infrastructures.

At the end of October, the German Research Foundation announced the "Funding Initiative for Securing Endangered Databases and Data Resilience 2025 to 2027."² With this initiative funds can be raised that go beyond what is already available in North Rhine-Westphalia to ensure the preservation and accessibility of endangered databases, e.g., from abroad. Funding can be obtained for human resources for the development, curation, or aggregation of data, legal review for the integration of secured data sets into higher-level infrastructures, and the development of technological and regulatory measures for integration into European networks and clouds, among other things.

Are you aware of any endangered data sets that are relevant to your area of research? Do you advise researchers or know colleagues who work with endangered data sets?

Then reach out to us by emailing forschungsdatensicherung-nrw@listserv.dfn.de and we will get in touch to discuss the next steps.

Become a data patron and let's work together to secure endangered data sets!

¹ Further information on the services can be found on the website of the state initiative fdm.nrw:
<https://www.fdm.nrw/technische-fdm-landesdienste>

² <https://www.dfg.de/de/foerderung/foerdermoeglichkeiten/programme/infrastruktur/lis/lis-foerderinitiative-daten-sicherung> (retrieved on 7.11.2025)



DataStorage.nrw



DataArchive.nrw

DataPublication.nrw



LZV.nrw

