Landesinitiative für Forschungsdatenmanagement
fdm.nrw

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 infrastructures[1] for data recovery: Our storage infrastructure for research data FDM:storage.nrw 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 2026, the German Research Foundation (DFG) extended the "Funding Initiative for Securing Endangered Data Collections."[2] Funding can also be obtained in 2027 through this initiative for measures that go beyond what is already available in North Rhine-Westphalia to ensure the preservation and accessibility of endangered data collections, e.g., from abroad. Funding can be obtained for measures to acquire the necessary storage capacities, human resources for the development, curation, or aggregation of data, and legal review, among other things. In addition, measures to integrate secured datasets into higher-level infrastructures and the development of technological and regulatory measures for integration into European networks and clouds are eligible for funding. An overview of the first 14 funded projects is available on the initiative's website mentioned above.

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/foerderinitiativen/lis-datenresilienz (retrieved on 26.10.2026)

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