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Research Data – Basics and Results of ETD's

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ABSTRACT

During the ETD-conferences in the past we discussed the pros and cons of electronic thesis and dissertations. We described the requirements for maintaining ETD's in repositories and how we could motivate authors to make their work open access and so that it will be available to interested people all over the world. A lot of repositories are available and many countries have well prepared ETD programs. In Germany all universities have an ETD-repository and we focus more and more on how to improve the visibility and attractiveness of these collections. The most important element is the relevance for the scholarly process. Increasingly a repository should be not only a collection, but a virtual environment—that is, an instrument to support scholars during their work. There are many possibilities, but an especially important point is the handling of research data.

Research data are the starting point for every research project on the one hand, and on the other they are the result of any research. In the digital age we can not only store the data but also share them. This is why in recent years we speak not only about open access to scholarly publications but about open access to research data. In my paper I intend to describe to the present situation (at least in Germany) for using research data, the drivers and barriers in sharing research data and the consequences for the operators of repositories. In order to go more into the details, I will use results from the EU funded projects "SOAP – Study of Open Access Publishing" and "ODE – Opportunities Data Exchange".

If you accept the paper, it could go either in the "Open Access Session" or in the session "Digital Libraries and Information Technologies".