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## A missing link? Connecting data and dissertations in the Netherlands

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# A missing link?

## Connecting data and dissertations in the Netherlands

### Introduction

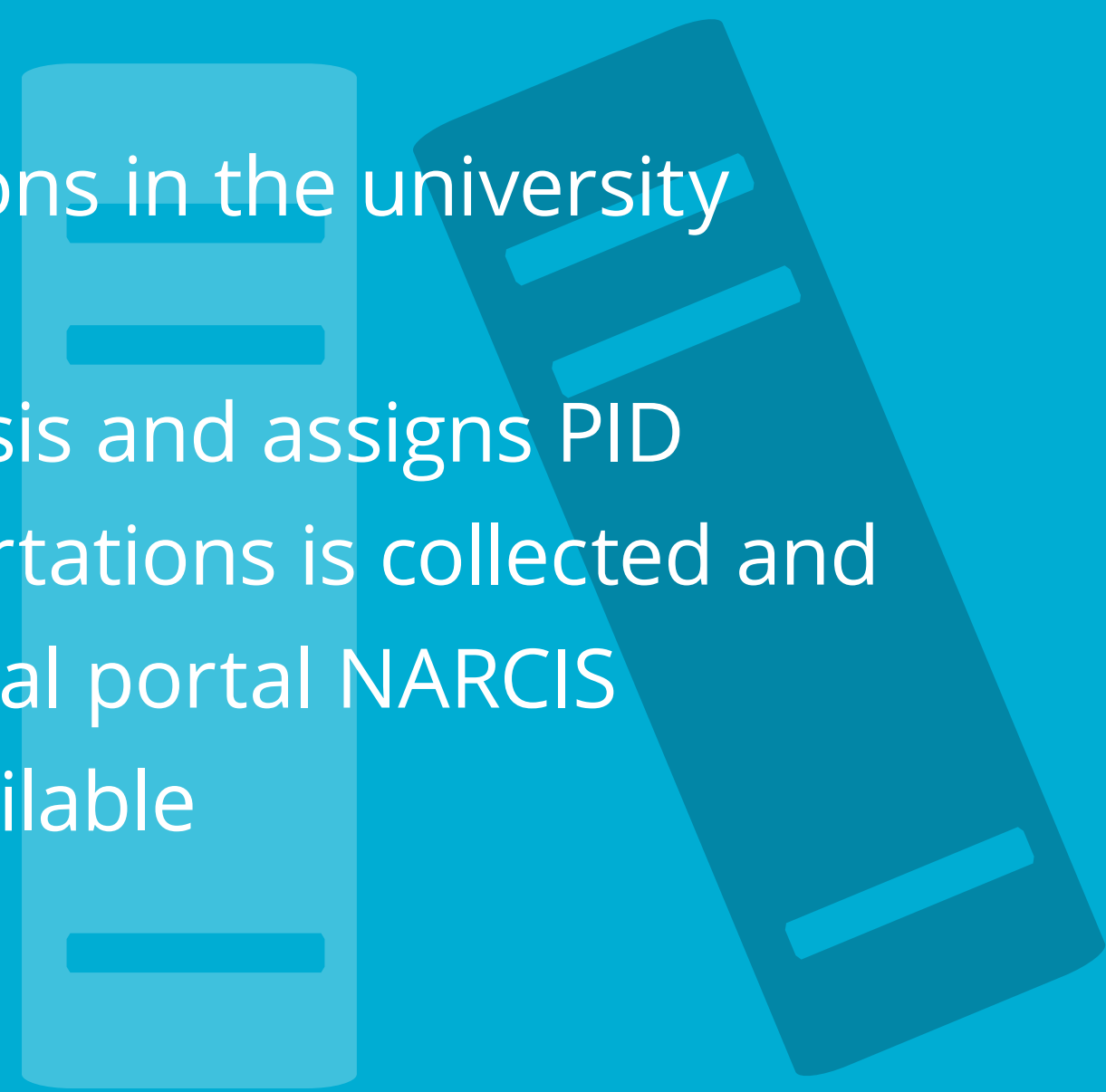
- PhD dissertations and datasets contain innovative research > Important to store and share the work
- However: Challenges when it comes to finding and accessing research data and dissertations

**Problem:** Dissertations are often not connected to related datasets (and vice versa)

## The current situation in the Netherlands

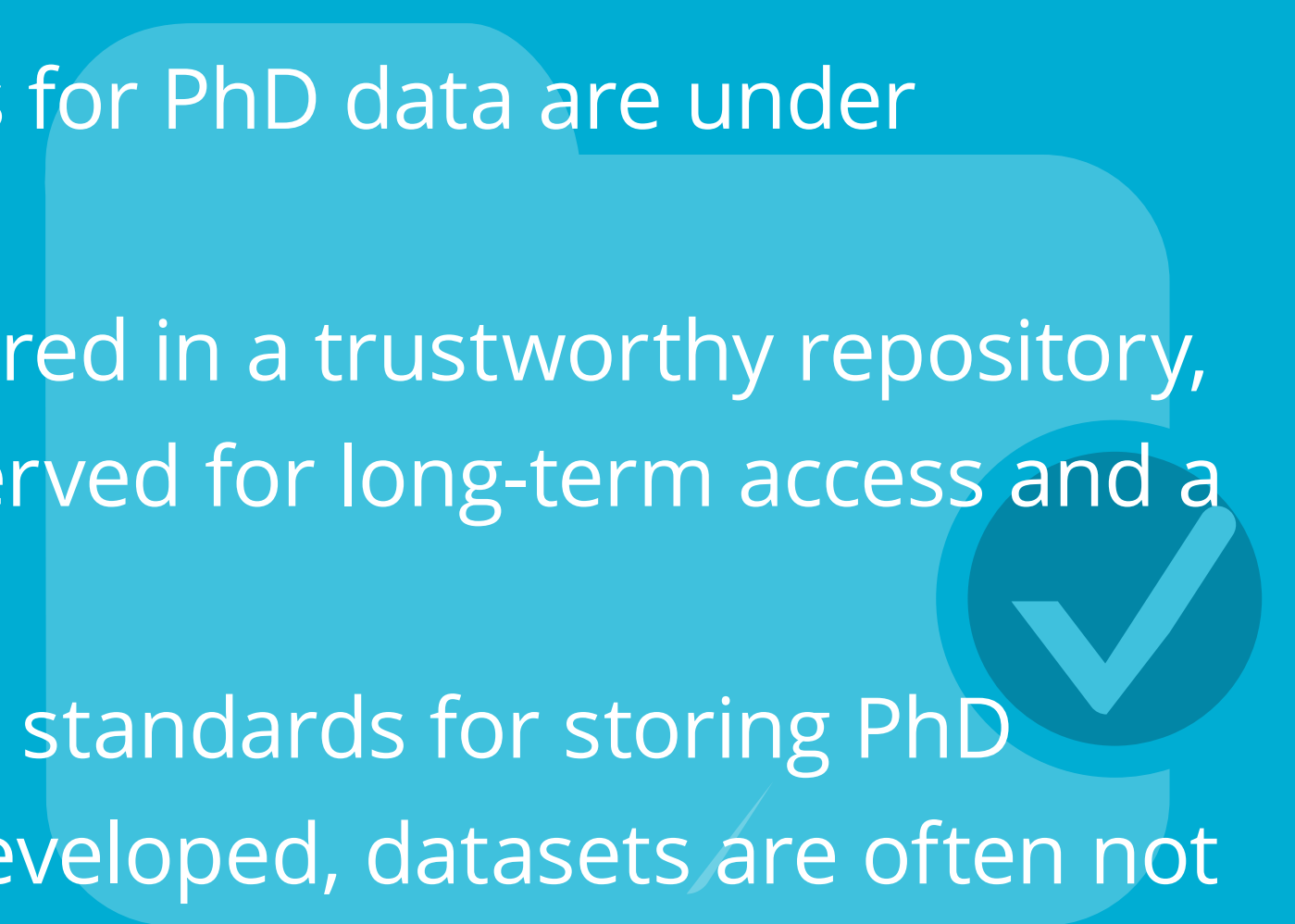
### Dissertation

- PhDs deposit dissertations in the university repositories
  - Repository archives thesis and assigns PID
  - Information on all dissertations is collected and presented by the national portal NARCIS
- > Good infrastructure available



### Data

- Explicit requirements for PhD data are under development
  - Only small part is stored in a trustworthy repository, where they are preserved for long-term access and a PID is assigned
- > As requirements and standards for storing PhD data are still being developed, datasets are often not findable and accessible



## Linking Data and Dissertations

- Some repositories can locally store the link between the two in the object's metadata
  - However, dissertations and datasets need to have a PID and the relationship needs to be known
  - Moreover, a standard for the way in which the relationship is described, stored and shared still has to be developed
- > Due to lack of access, information and common standards, most connections remain hidden

## Actions

To consistently connect data and dissertations, changes in policy and technical advances are needed.

### Changes in Policy

*Awareness about the importance of proper data storage and reference needs to be raised*

- Universities should implement requirements and offer support and training.
- PhD candidates should archive dissertations and data in trustworthy repositories and provide the connections to the repositories.
- Additional support to create a research data management plan at the beginning of a PhD should be provided.

### Technical Advances

*Agreement on and adaptations of the relevant metadata standards is needed*

- The Edustandaard work package on metadata should develop and implement adaptations to the current Dutch metadata standard.
- Adaptations need to be implemented in the research information and repository systems*
- Universities need to assess how these new standards can be implemented into the research information systems and incorporated into daily practice.