A missing link ? Connecting data and dissertations in the Netherlands

Ricarda Braukmann, Ingrid Dillo, Peter Doorn

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Data Archiving and Networked Services

DANS

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.

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