



SaxFDM
FORSCHUNGSDATENMANAGEMENT
IN SACHSEN

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

7th SaxFDM Conference | 24th – 25th November 2026

Rethinking Research Data: Governance, AI and Sustainable Data Environments

Research Data Management is changing quickly. Whilst many institutions are still in the process of establishing robust infrastructures, developments elsewhere are driving the pace forward. The forthcoming national Research Data Act, the NFDI and EOSC, the development of data competence centres, regional RDM initiatives and many others are accelerating the institutionalisation of research data management – yet, as the RfII in its position paper “Leistung in Verantwortung” (2025) noted, this is happening in an unsystematic manner and without a coherent roadmap. At the same time, the use of AI models is influencing both the implementation of data management and daily RDM related consultations. However, there is still little systematic discussion within the RDM community about what AI readiness actually means for the curation of research data. Digital resilience is now also being widely discussed in Germany, and not just in light of the developments in the US (keyword: Data Rescue Project). At this year’s SaxFDM Annual Conference we would like to discuss how these and other political dynamics (may) affect data management.

Under the topic “Rethinking Research Data Management – Governance, AI and Sustainable Data Environments”, we would like to explore with you which operating models have proven effective – and which have not – when it comes to managing and utilising research data as a strategic resource. We are also interested in how cooperation and active collaboration between different stakeholders influence data management. Another key focus is on the role of data quality in the development of AI models. In this context, we would like to discuss how AI applications can effectively support research data management in day-to-day research and RDM related consultations. Furthermore, the question arises as to what forms of accountability are necessary to ensure the reliable, long-term operation of information infrastructures.

Finally, we would like to explore together what skills will be required in research data management in the future in order to successfully navigate the numerous transformation processes taking place within the academic system.

www.saxfdm.de/7-saxfdm-conference

TOPIC AREAS



Responsibility and Governance in RDM

Who is responsible, who makes the decisions, and who carries out the work? In practice, RDM governance often remains unclear within the structure of institutional management, academic departments and (central) service units. We would like to explore which governance models have proven effective and what they mean for researchers in their daily work.

- Which collaborative models have proven effective in practice?
- What added value does RDM provide as a service in projects, research institutions and beyond?
- Where are the limits of RDM services and cooperation in projects, research institutions and beyond?



Artificial Intelligence in the Context of RDM

AI is transforming everyday research and, with it, the Research Data Management (RDM) framework. What data am I permitted to use for AI? What does it mean when my data is used as training data? How can research data effectively support the development of AI models? And how is AI changing advisory practice when clear answers are often still lacking?

- What does AI readiness mean for the handling of research data?
- What role does a robust FDM play in AI model development?
- How do AI models support the implementation of the FDM and the provision of consultancy and training services?



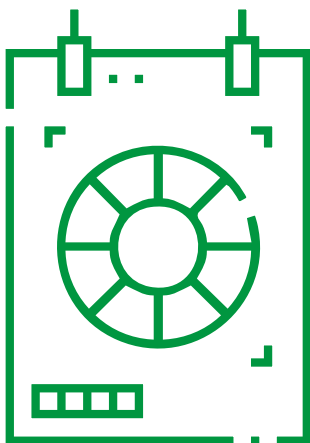
Sustainable Data Environments

Sustainability in RDM means more than just long-term archiving: it concerns the technical interoperability of systems, the financial and staff sustainability of infrastructures beyond the duration of individual projects, as well as the structural integration and shared organisational responsibility between institutions, consortia and European infrastructures. The interaction between stakeholders across the entire system at national and international levels is just as crucial as the use of research data and its management as a strategic resource at individual research institutions.

- What roles and relationships should the stakeholders in the data infrastructure system assume, and how can they work together effectively?
- How can RDM support digital resilience?
- What added value does RDM offer research institutions, and what added value do research data provide as a strategic resource?

CONTRIBUTION FORMATS

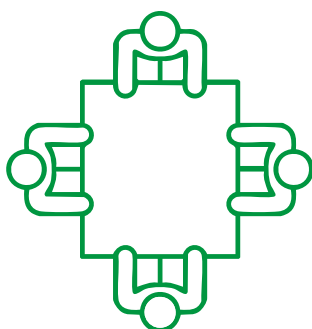
If you would like to take an active role in the SaxFDM Annual Conference, you can choose from a range of contribution formats. When submitting your proposal, please indicate which format you would like to use. You may select more than one option. Depending on the number of applications received for different formats and topic areas, we reserve the right to suggest a different format for your proposed contribution.



POSTER

Posters provide an overview of projects, concepts, tools and practical applications. You will present the key points of your poster to the plenary in a short pitch and will have the opportunity to discuss them in detail with conference participants during the poster session.

- Format: Poster (A0, portrait format; poster displays available)
- Participants: Plenary session
- Duration: 1 minute (pitch), 2 x 60 minutes (poster session)
- Submission: Abstract (max. 200 words)



PARTICIPATORY FORMATS

Participatory formats provide an opportunity to discuss selected topics, find solutions together, try out different approaches and tools or explore topics collaboratively.

- Formats: Workshop, world café, hands-on lab, other participatory formats
- Participants: Between 15 and 25 people (please specify the desired number of participants, including a maximum if required)
- Duration: 90 minutes
- Submission: Abstract (max. 300 words, please specifying the subject area and the chosen format)



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SUBMISSION AND NEXT STEPS

Submission deadline: 3rd July 2026

Formal requirements

- Title, authors, institutional affiliation
- Abstract (The word count depends on the submission format. If the specified word count is significantly exceeded, we reserve the right to reject your submission for formal reasons.)
- Appropriate language style (Submissions in German or English)
- References, if you refer to published findings, data or code
- Selected topic area
- Preferred contribution format(s)

General review criteria

- Relevance to the conferences focus and the listed topic areas
- Relevance to RDM related developments in general
- Expected insights and added value for conference participants
- Compliance with the formal criteria

Submissions must be made via the event portal Hifis (<https://events.hifis.net/event/3710/abstracts/>).

All abstracts received will be reviewed after the submission deadline, and a selection will be made based on the evaluation results. **You will be notified personally of the status of your submission by 28th August 2026.**

If you encounter any problems submitting your abstract, or if you have any questions regarding the content or organisation of the conference, please contact the conference organising team at events@saxfdm.de.



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