



TARTU ÜLIKOOL

# Future-Proofing Research Data Management: How Industry Strategies Can Strengthen Research Data Governance

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# Who am I?



University of Tartu, Estonia  
Genetic Engineer, MSc



Research Data Management  
trainer

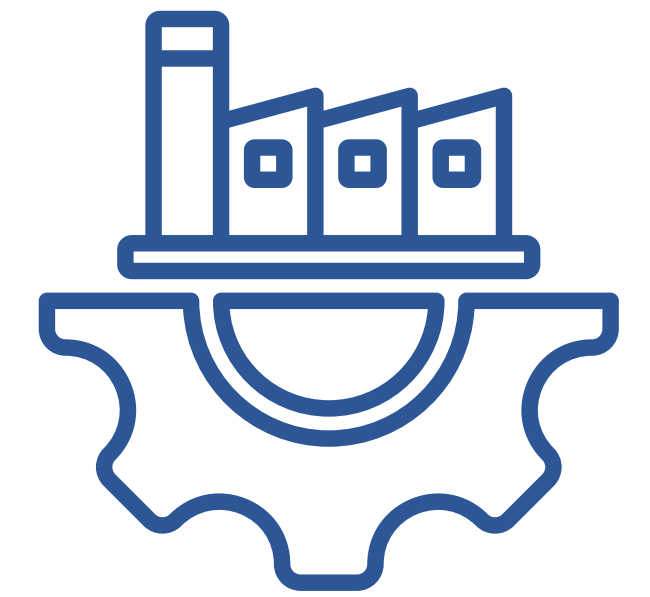


Member of RDM networks:

- Estonian
- 3 international ( ELIXIR, RDA, Nordic)
- following in 2 other national ones







## Two different worlds?

**FAIR**

**Open Science**

**Public good**

**Analytics**

**Return On Investment**

**Competitive Advantage**

**Data-Driven Decisions**

# Shared struggle

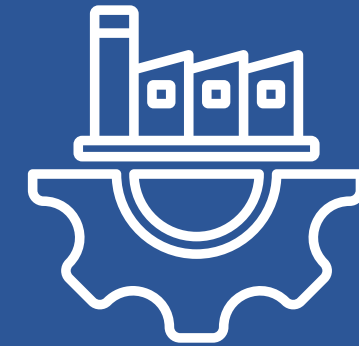


Metadata is **GOLD**



Humans dislike writing documentation

# Shared struggle



Metadata is **GOLD**



Humans dislike writing documentation

**Framework for both: Data Governance.**



**Provenance**

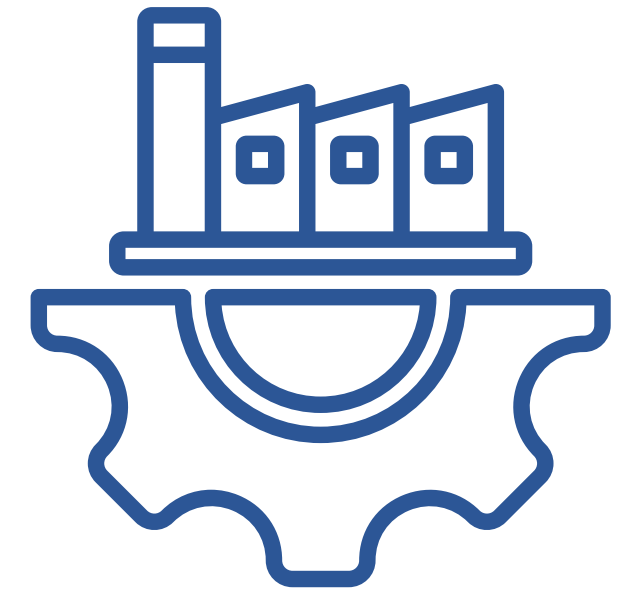
**Manual PIDs**

**External mandates**

(National Open Science guidelines, EU laws)

**PI, data controller,  
data processor**

# Lost in translation



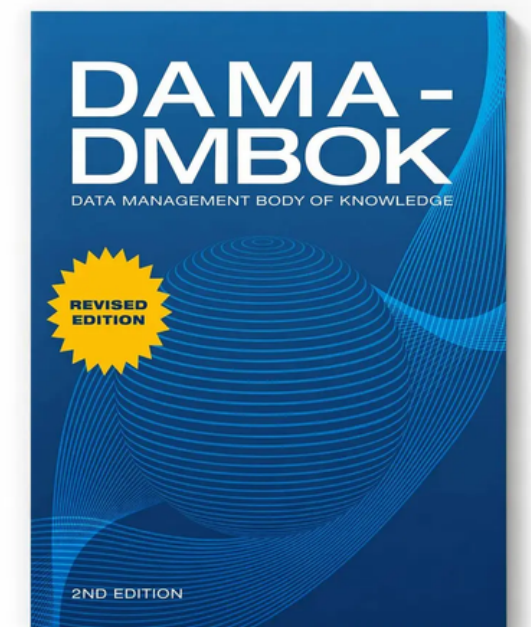
**Lineage**

**Automated tracking**

**Operational playbooks**

**DAMA-DMBOK**

**Data owner**



# Data as an asset

Industry builds (Meta)Data  
Catalogs.

Universities?

**Most universities have no  
central map of their research  
data assets.**

**University  
Blind spot**





If research data is our primary output,  
**we must know what we have**



# Borrowing from Industry: Data Catalogue



**Treat Research Data like Institutional Assets:  
Institutional metadata cataloging, even if the  
data itself remains distributed.**

Example:

Germany: Currently building the NFDI (Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur), a massive national project to create linked data catalogs across all disciplines.

Working group: Search and harvesting

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6770763>

# Borrowing from Industry: Ownership



**Define Ownership Beyond the PI:  
Establish institutional data stewardship protocols so data  
survives beyond a single grant lifecycle.**

Examples:

- Offboarding workflows
  - University of Basel- [Project end and off-boarding](#)
  - KU Leuven - [Checklist for Research Data Handover at end of PhD](#)
  - University of Wisconsin–Madison - [Research Data Management Offboarding Checklist](#)
  - Penn State University - [Checklist for Departing Researchers](#)
  - Duke University- [Researcher offboarding procedures](#)
- Data Vault for orphan data - [Universities of Edinburgh and Manchester](#)

Research data is the  
university's greatest asset.

It's time we governed it like one







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Thank you!



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