



**RDM Compas**  
Research Data Management  
Competence Base

# Turning Demands into Practice: RDM Compas Survey Evidence to Strengthen RDM Professionals Training

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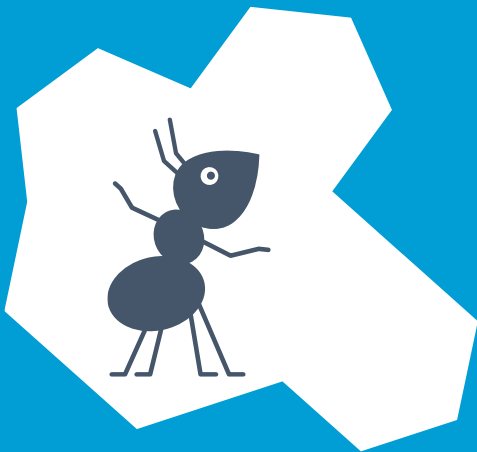
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# RDM Compas Background





## Aim

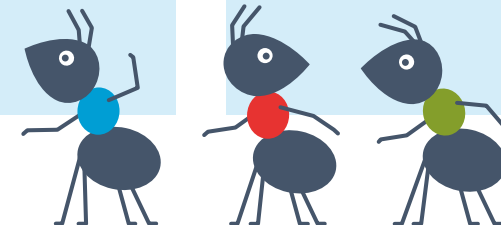
- Promoting professionalisation in the context of RDM
- Development of quality-assured & standardised learning paths for RDM professionals

## Target group

- Individuals who are already working in professional RDM and data curation, or who wish to do so in the future (such as RDC staff, data curators, data stewards, etc.), in the KonsortSWD disciplines

## Strategy

- Establishment of a central information and training platform within KonsortSWD





# RDM Compas

Research Data Management  
Competence Base

[www.rdm-compas.org](http://www.rdm-compas.org)

Ein Angebot von

KonsortSWD

NFDI-Servicium


nfdi

Deutsches Forschungsinstitut für Sozialwissenschaften

GESIS Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften

zpid

Leibniz-Institut für Politikforschung



RDM Compas

Research Data Management  
Competence Base

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[RDM Knowledge Base](#)

[RDM Trainingcenter](#)

[About](#)

Research data management: competencies for data curation

RDM Compas is the information and training platform of the NFDI consortium KonsortSWD. Here you will find both general and data type specific information and training resources on research data management for anyone already working in or aspiring to work in the field of professional data curation (e.g., data curators at research data centers or data stewards at universities and other higher education institutions).

Transform

Create & Receive

Appraise & Select

Ingest (or Dispose)

Preservation action (Reappraise, Migrate)

Store & Secure

Access, Use & Reuse


Legal & ethical aspects

Description & Representation Information

Community watch & participation

Conceptualization & Preservation planning

DATA



RDM Knowledge Base

In the RDM Knowledge Base you will find information on generic research data management for data curators, as well as data type-specific offers for the social, behavioural, educational and economic sciences.

The services of RDM Compas are orientated towards [data curation](#) activities in research data centres. We therefore use a simple model of the [data curation lifecycle](#) as a basis.


[To the Knowledge Base](#)

Training Center

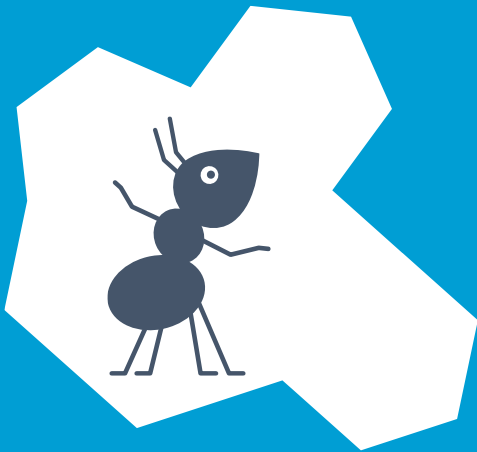
In addition to the informative articles in the Knowledge Base, you will find corresponding thematic training materials on the individual steps of data curation and generic research data management in the Training Center.

To go directly to the training materials and thematic training materials, please click on the button below.

[To the Training Center](#)



# Demand Survey



# Demand Survey

- **Goals:**

Identify the skills, needs, and training wishes of RDM staff to improve and tailor the RDM Compas platform materials

- **Participants:**

130 RDM professionals (data stewards, data managers, consultants, RDC staff, etc.) from various institutions (universities, research facilities, RDCs, libraries, etc.)

- **Experience:**

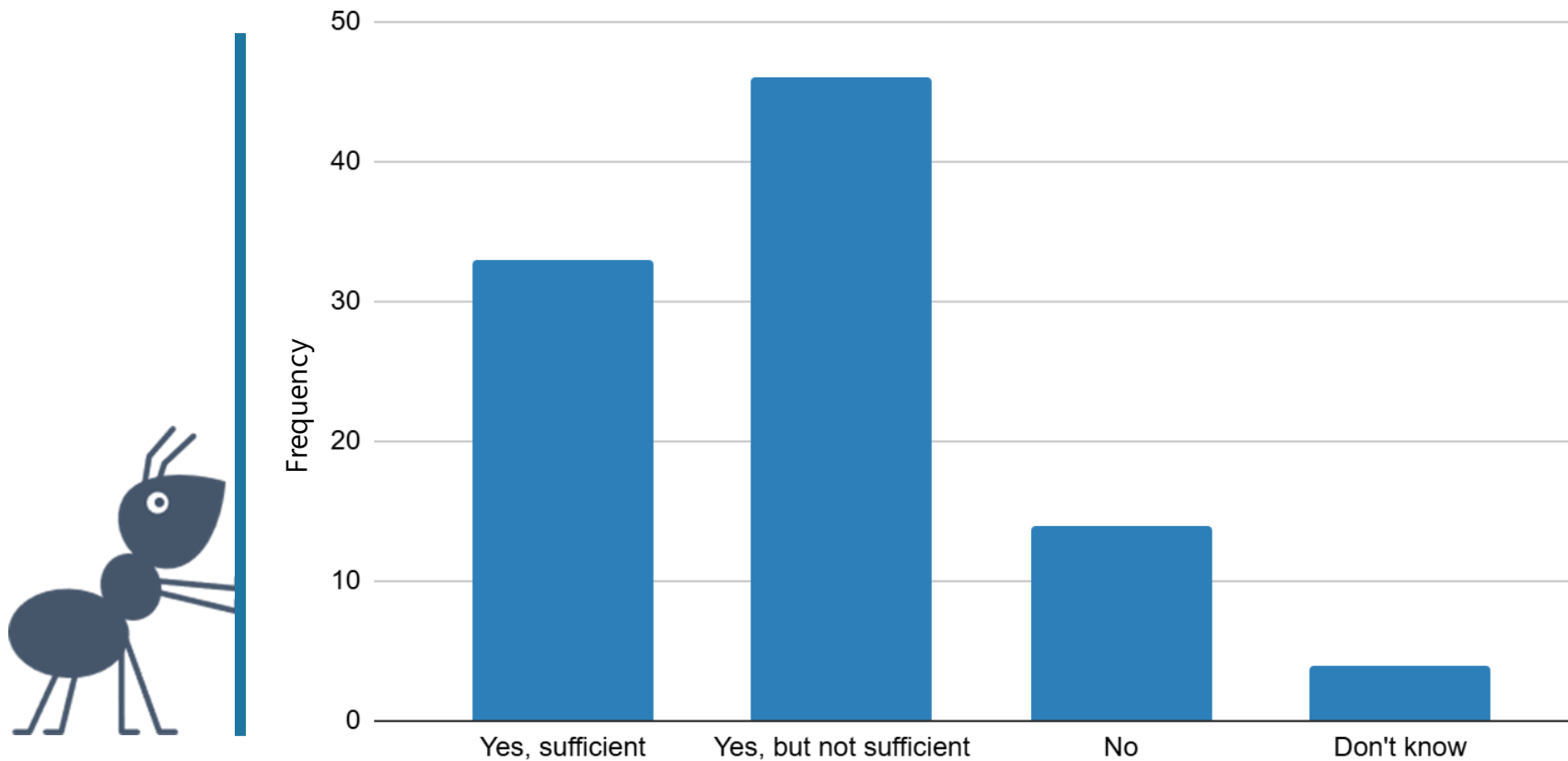
„> 5 years; 1-2 years; 3-5 years“

- **Disciplines:**

Social sciences, humanities, economic sciences, political sciences, behavioural sciences, etc.



# Current training situation



## RDM Tasks: Relevance vs. Difficulty

Comparison of mean scores (Scale 1-5)





## Create & Receive

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### Legal Aspects: Data Transfer

The transfer of research data and the associated files should be legally secured in a data archiving agreement. Such an agreement covers not only details related to copyright, usage, and data

## Appraise & Select

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### Legal Aspects: Data Protection & Informed Consent

## Ingest (or Dispose)

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### Legal Aspects: Anonymization & Pseudonymization

Working with research data is a responsible task. This is particularly true for social, behavioral, educational, and economic sciences, where people are often the subject of a research, and thus sensitive, personal data form the core of a research. In this context, various **ethical principles** can

## Access, Use & Reuse

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### Legal Aspects: Copyright & Data Reuse

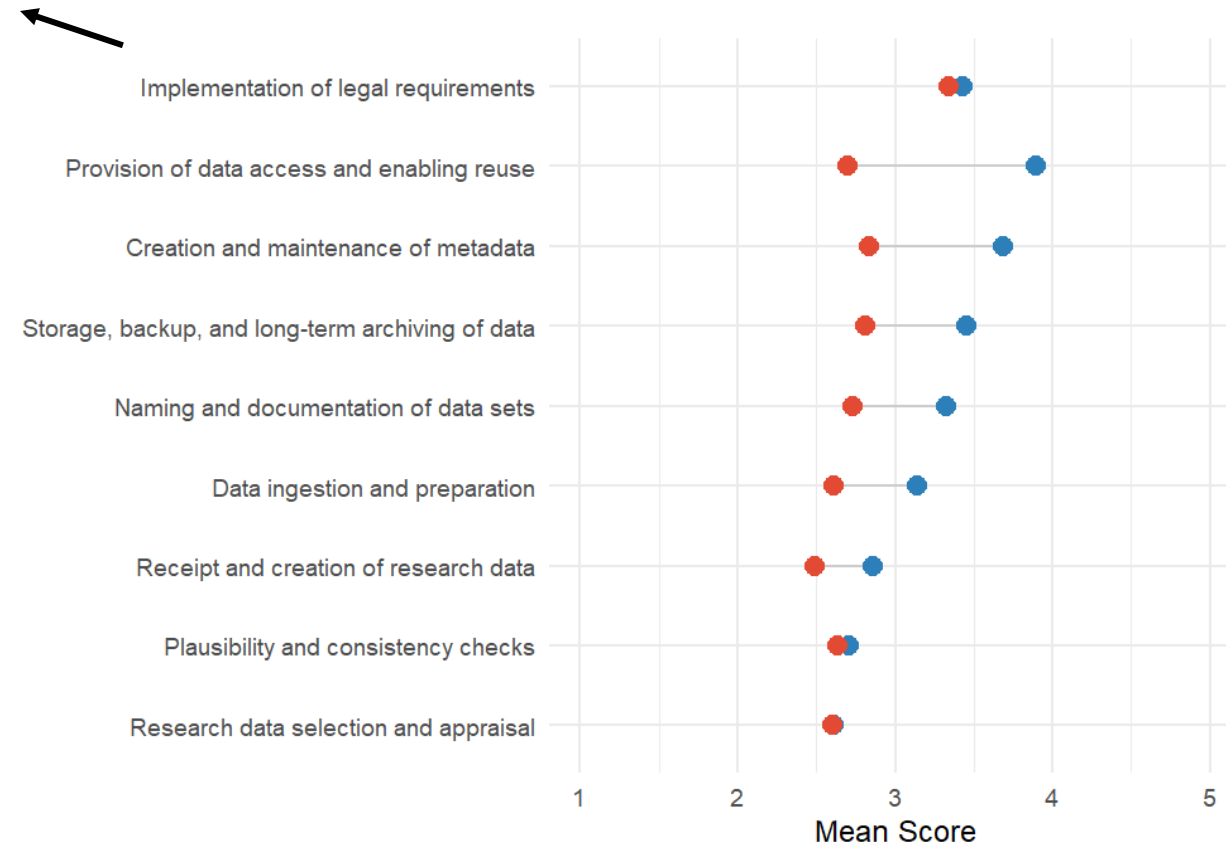
Working with research data is a responsible task. This is particularly true for social, behavioral, educational, and economic sciences, where people are often the main research subjects and thus sensitive, personal data are at the core of the research. In this case, various ethical considerations can come into conflict with each other. These ethical aspects are discussed in more details in our article on [research ethics](#).

**Legal regulations**, such as data protection or copyright laws, also play an important role in research data management for data curators, governing the handling of research data at EU, federal, or regional levels. One of the key tasks for data managers is not only to be aware of these aspects, but also to ensure compliance, identify risks and violations, and to develop procedures to uphold these principles within their institutions.

## RDM Tasks: Relevance vs. Difficulty

Comparison of mean scores (Scale 1-5)

Metric ● Average Relevance ● Average Difficulty



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## GENERIC RDM

- Basics
- Create & Receive
- Appraise & Select
- Ingest (or Dispose)
- Preservation action (Reappraise, Migrate)
- Store & Secure
- Access, Use & Reuse
  - Data Access Paths**
  - Legal Aspects: Copyright & Data Reuse
  - Tips & Checklists
  - Links & Sources
  - RDM Consultation: Repositories
  - RDM Consultation: Licenses
  - RDM Consultation: Persistent Identifiers
  - Transform

## Data Access Paths

One of the central functions of a research data center, in addition to data archiving and associated documentation and curation activities, is to facilitate data access for secondary use. There are various methods to do this. Both the type of data and the purpose of reuse are decisive for a choice of a data access path. The data can, for example, be made accessible through an ordering system – often called a data catalog or search system. An RDC (Research Data Center) can provide research data through the following access paths:

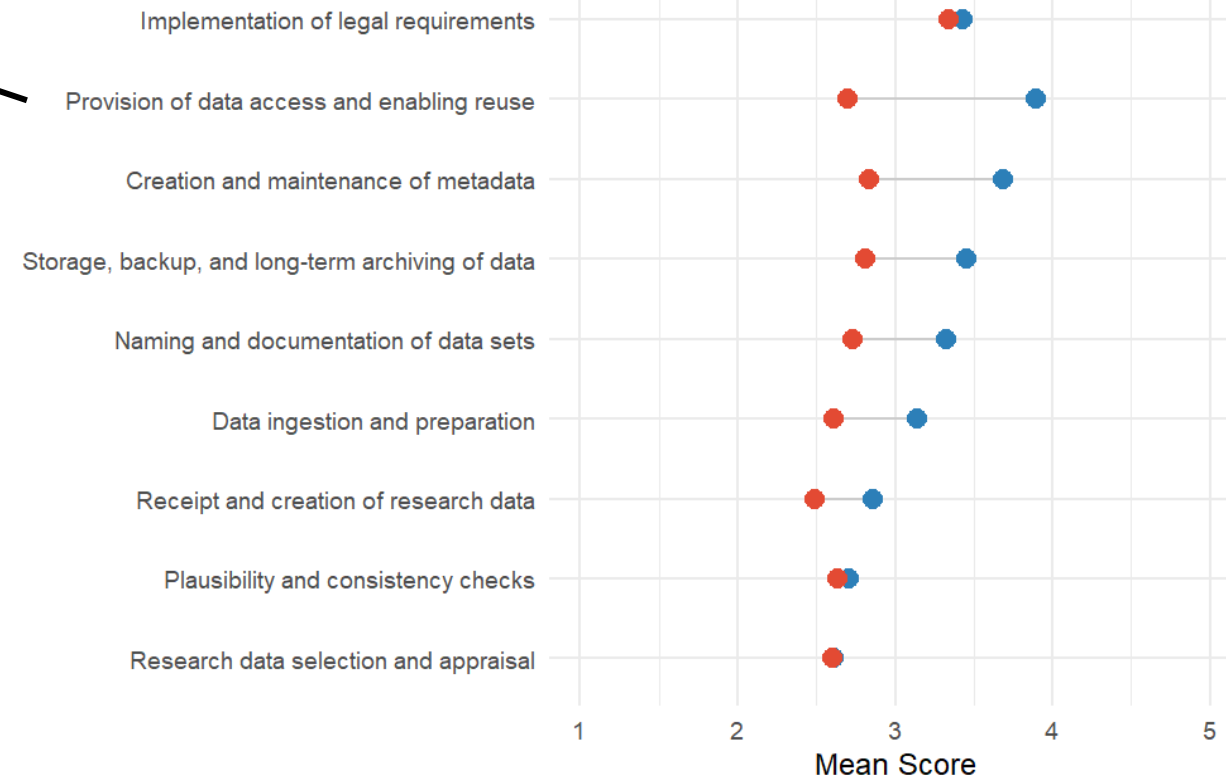
### Download

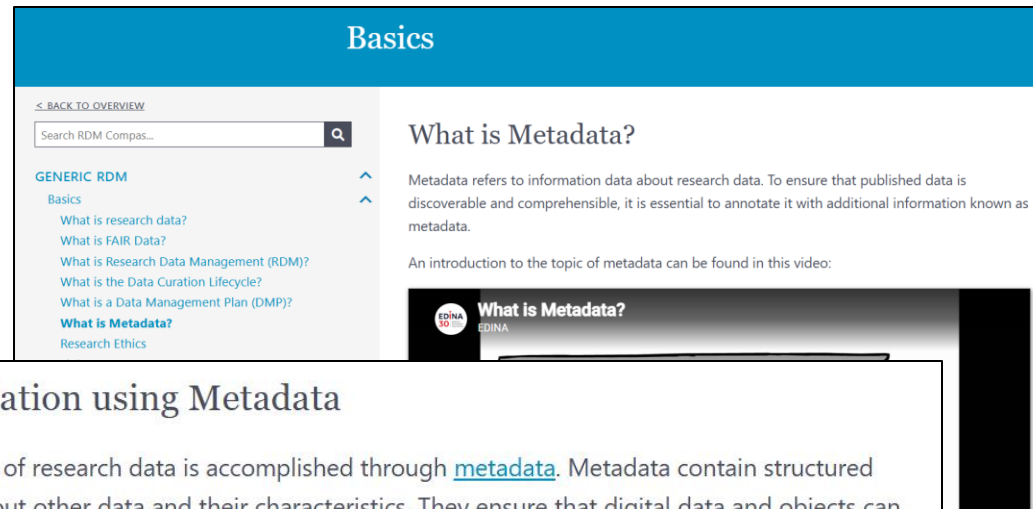
The most open form of data access involves downloading the desired data and associated documents from a data catalog to the user's device. Depending on the data access strategy, this download may be entirely free or require registration, authentication, or the completion of a data usage agreement. Examples of data usage agreements can be found on the webpages of some institutions [\(e.g. SOEP\)](#).

## RDM Tasks: Relevance vs. Difficulty

Comparison of mean scores (Scale 1-5)

Metric ● Average Relevance ● Average Difficulty

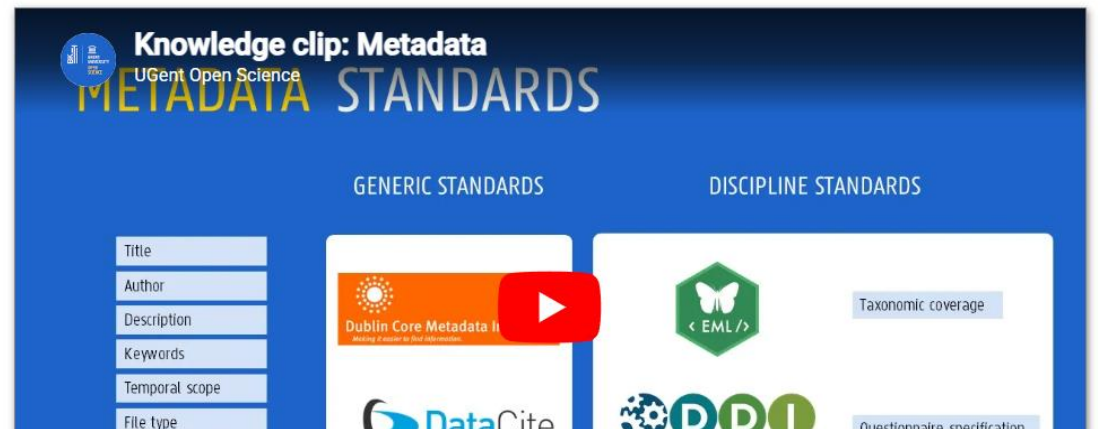




## Documentation using Metadata

The description of research data is accomplished through [metadata](#). Metadata contain structured information about other data and their characteristics. They ensure that digital data and objects can be discovered and searched.

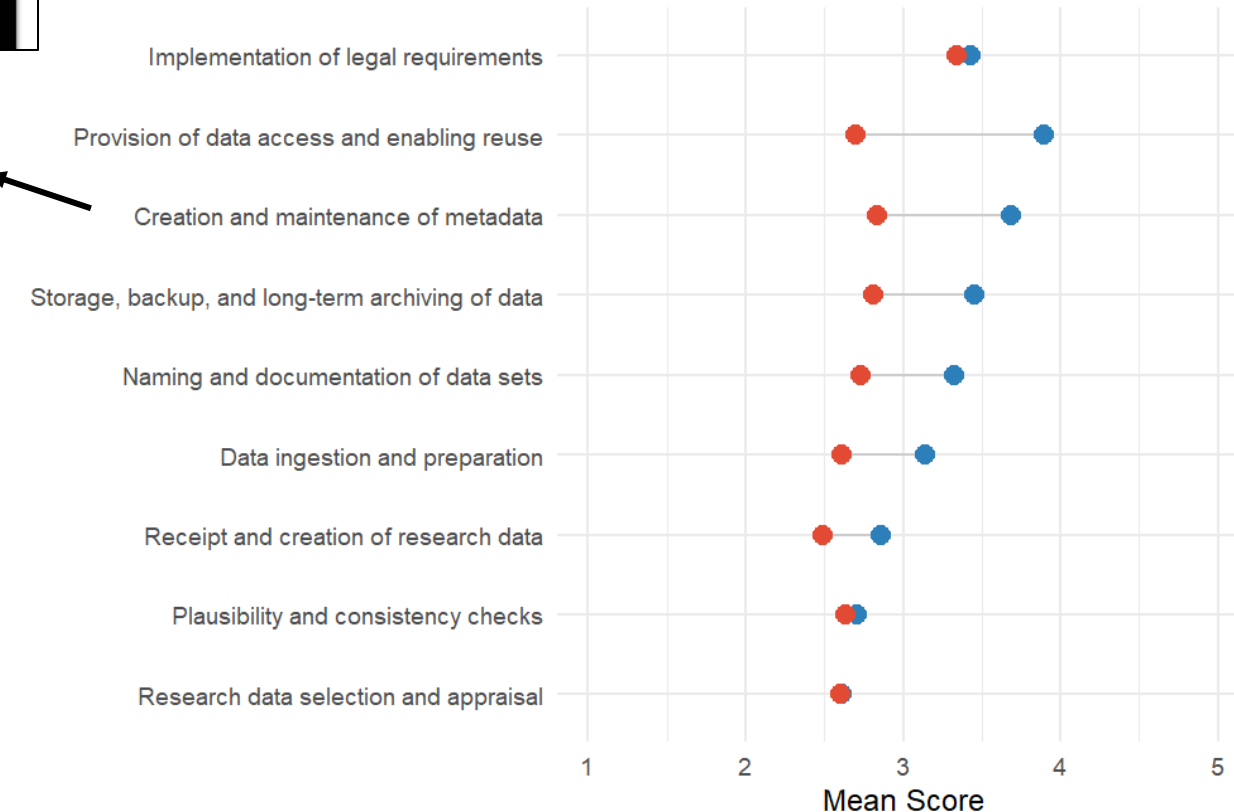
In the following video from UGent Open Science, you will learn what metadata are and why they should be used:



## RDM Tasks: Relevance vs. Difficulty

Comparison of mean scores (Scale 1-5)

Metric ● Average Relevance ● Average Difficulty



## Store & Secure

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### GENERIC RDM

Basics  
Create & Receive  
Appraise & Select  
Ingest (or Dispose)  
Preservation action (Reappraise, Migrate)  
Store & Secure  
    **Storage Strategies**  
    Tips & Checklists  
RDM Consultation: Storage Guide for Researchers

## Storage Strategies

The storage of research data poses challenges for an institution and its technical infrastructure, requiring the creation of long-term and secure storage solutions for various quantitative and qualitative data types. The requirements for storing complex experiments or video files differ from those for storing social science survey data, that is why potentially different storage technologies may be necessary to ensure fast access to different data types.

Within research data management, a distinction must be made between **short-term, medium-term, and long-term data storage**. Short-term storage occurs during the research process as part of data collection and further data processing.

### Long-Term Storage Strategy

A long-term storage strategy involves archiving research data. Archiving requires not only secure storage but also comprehensive data description with [Metadata](#), which makes the reuse of the research data possible in the first place.

In terms of long-term storage of research data, some file formats are more suitable than others. The decision for or against a certain format depends largely on data compatibility with other data or software to be used, suitability for long-term archiving, and the ability to convert data if necessary.

A rough overview of the suitability of different [data formats](#) is shown in the table below:

| Sustainability | Machine Readability                     | Human Readability   | Long-Term Readability                  | Metadata  |
|----------------|---|---|--|---|
| very good      | with widely used open software          | yes, without specialized software                               | standardized standard                  | fully included                                    |
| good           | with well-known and documented software | compressed according to standard procedures but technically yes | long-established or widely established | technical details are included                    |
| average        | proprietary standard format             | with open software (reliable?) convertible to a higher class    | relatively new format                  | some important (e.g., units) details are included |
| poor           | self-developed reading software         | no  | just invented                          | no details  |

[Source: <https://forschungsdaten.info/themen/veroeffentlichen-und-archivieren/formate-erhalten/> (last accessed: 13.09.2022, 11:07 AM)]

the research process.  
research process.

Implementation of legal requirements

Provision of data access and enabling reuse

Creation and maintenance of metadata

Storage, backup, and long-term archiving of data

Naming and documentation of data sets

Data ingestion and preparation

Receipt and creation of research data

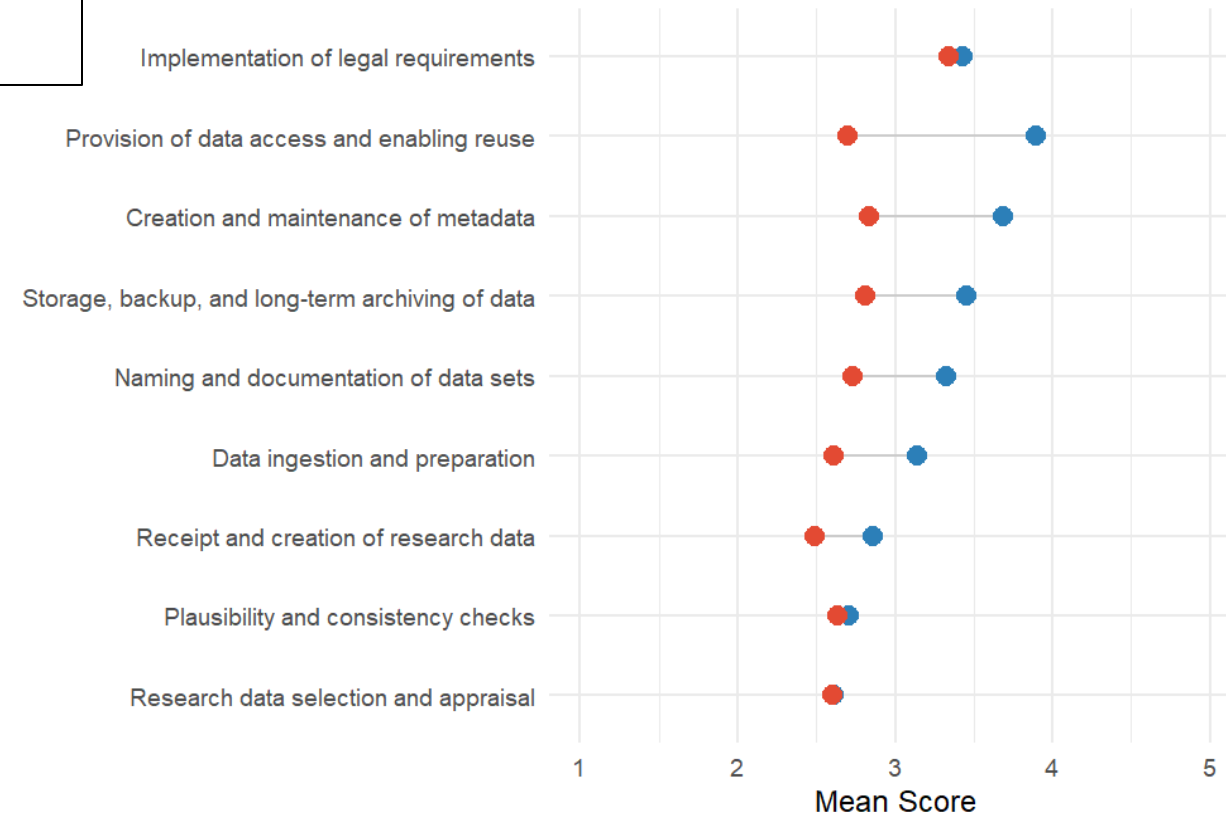
Plausibility and consistency checks

Research data selection and appraisal

## RDM Tasks: Relevance vs. Difficulty

Comparison of mean scores (Scale 1-5)

Metric ● Average Relevance ● Average Difficulty



## Other Tasks: Relevance vs. Difficulty

Comparison of mean scores (Scale 1-5)



## Create and receive

Data creation and data acquisition from data centers or repositories. The assignment of the appropriate metadata.

[Data Curation](#) >

[RDM-Consulting](#) >

## Appraise and select

Evaluation of the obtained data and its selection for long-term archiving and preservation.

[Data Curation](#) >

[RDM-Consulting](#) >

## Ingest (or dispose)

Data transfer to a data center, an archive, or a repository. Secure data disposal, in case the data have not been selected for long-term retention.

[Data Curation](#) >

[RDM-Consulting](#) >

## Preservation action

Data cleaning and validation for archiving, and metadata assignment for its reuse. Assurance of adequate data formats and data evaluation for the reusability purposes.

[Data Curation](#) >

## Store and secure

Ensuring secure data storage, in compliance with applicable policies and legal standards.

[Data Curation](#) >

[RDM-Consulting](#) >

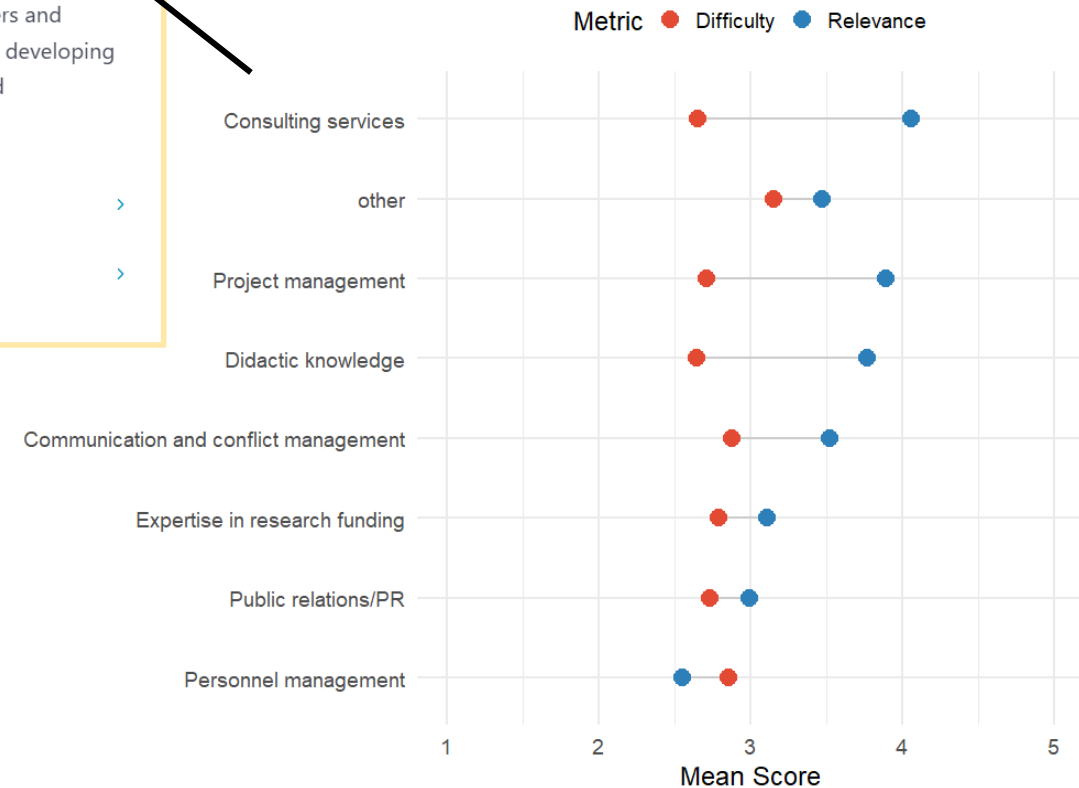
## Access, use and reuse

Ensuring data access for users and subsequent users, as well as developing and using access checks and authentication procedures.

[Data Curation](#) >

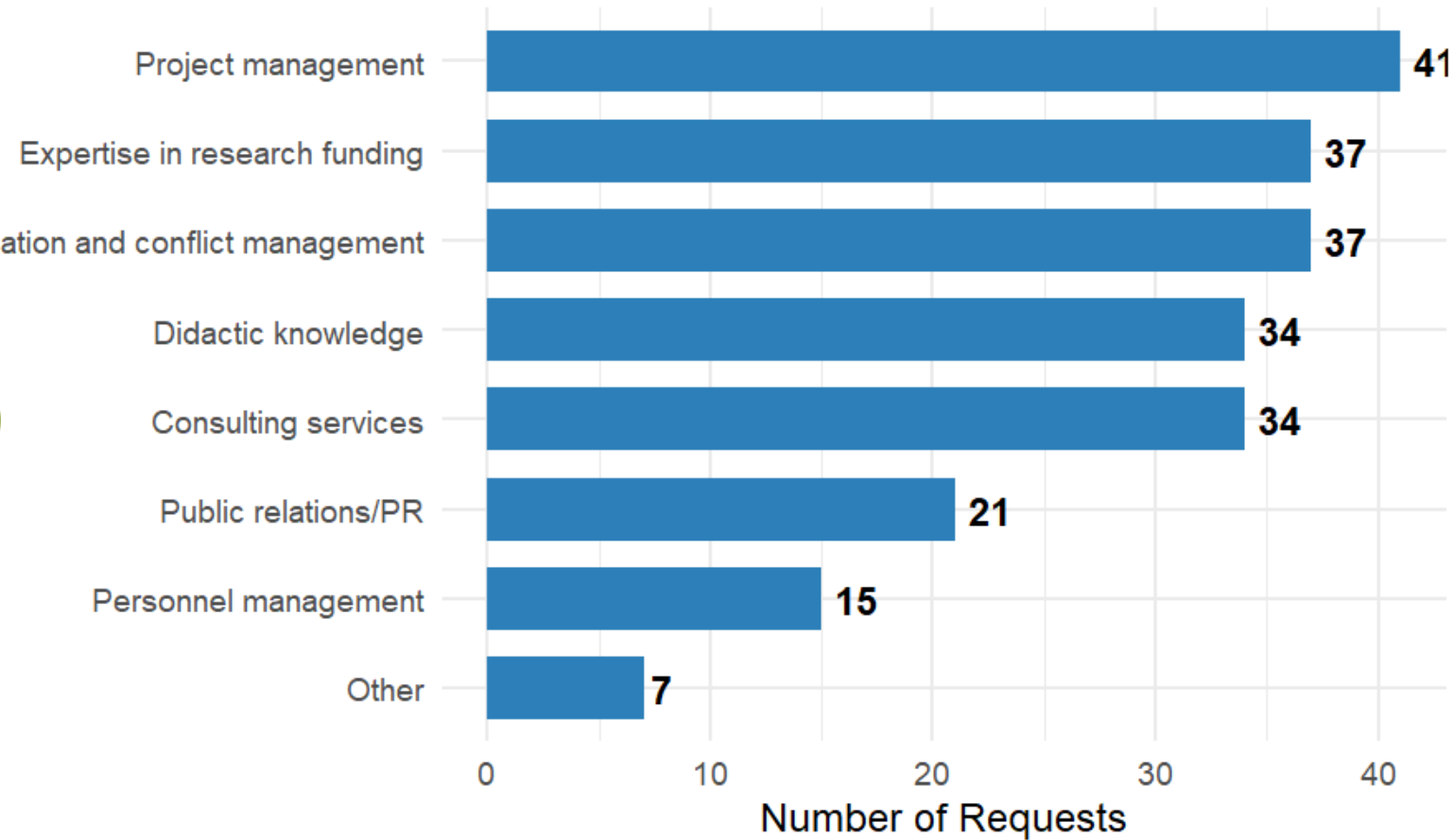
[RDM-Consulting](#) >

Other Tasks: Relevance vs. Difficulty  
Comparison of mean scores (Scale 1-5)



## Desired Training Materials & Resources

On which topics would you like to see more information and training resources?



# Desired Training Offers: Open Question

Open question responses support the need for:

- **Advanced** training opportunities
- **AI application** for data curation (including technical fundamentals, use cases and current research)
- Data protection and legal aspects
- Didactics and consulting activities in RDM

Plan: to explore these topics in depth, curate and develop materials, and integrate them into existing platform



# Next Steps

- Sustained operation and maintenance
- Qualitative interviews with users and experts
- **Expansion and revision** of platform
- Implementation of standardised **learning paths**



# Thank you!



Good  
Cooperation  
starts small

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