JOINT EUROPEAN PROJECT TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION: Promoting research data management and open science within technical fields

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Background

- Tampere Technical University and Technische Universität Braunschweig were awarded with a seed funding project in 2018 (five projects in total were awarded)
  - Seed funding for collaborative projects between Tampere Technical University and Technische Universität Braunschweig
- The funding was received in order to develop services in the field of research data management and open science in the technical fields
  - Applicants' (Nykyri and Strötgen) researcher background helped in securing the funding
- First funding to be awarded to support services

Tampere University Library

- Tampere Technical University, University of Tampere and Tampere University of Applied Sciences has merged into Tampere University in January 2019 → the libraries in these three organisations also merged

- Open Science and research data
  - Open Science Services (manager Nykyri) in the Library include three teams:
    - Publication Support
    - Research Support
    - Metrics
  - Research Support (team leader Fält)

- Tampere University Library offers and develops research support services in the expanding fields of research data and open science

- Strong emphasis on integrating in national and international cooperation, e.g.
  - EOSC Landscape WG (Nykyri)
  - RDA Plenary WGs (Fält, Friman, Nykyri, Näppilä)
  - The WGs of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (comprehensive participation in all the relevant Open Science WGs)

Technische Universität Braunschweig

- University library has long tradition in digitazation and digital publication support
- Open Access policy and increasing services since 2015
- Research data policy and new services since 2017
- TUBS.researchdata competence centre with university library, computing centre and research support office
- Close cooperation with German TU9 universities in the field of rdm training materials (https://zenodo.org/communities/rdm_training_engineering_sciences/)
- Current activities on enhancing services for researches, new technical infrastructure and close cooperation with researches
- Involved with the development of the German NFDI with focus on engeneering sciences

Aims of the project

- Finding concrete solutions and developing research support services in the technical fields.

- Encouraging mutual learning between specialists working within support services

- Providing research data management support together for the researchers working in shared TaU-TUBS-projects

Working methods

- Joint working cloud for documents and materials
- First meeting in Braunschweig in November 2018
- Second meeting in Tampere in May 2019
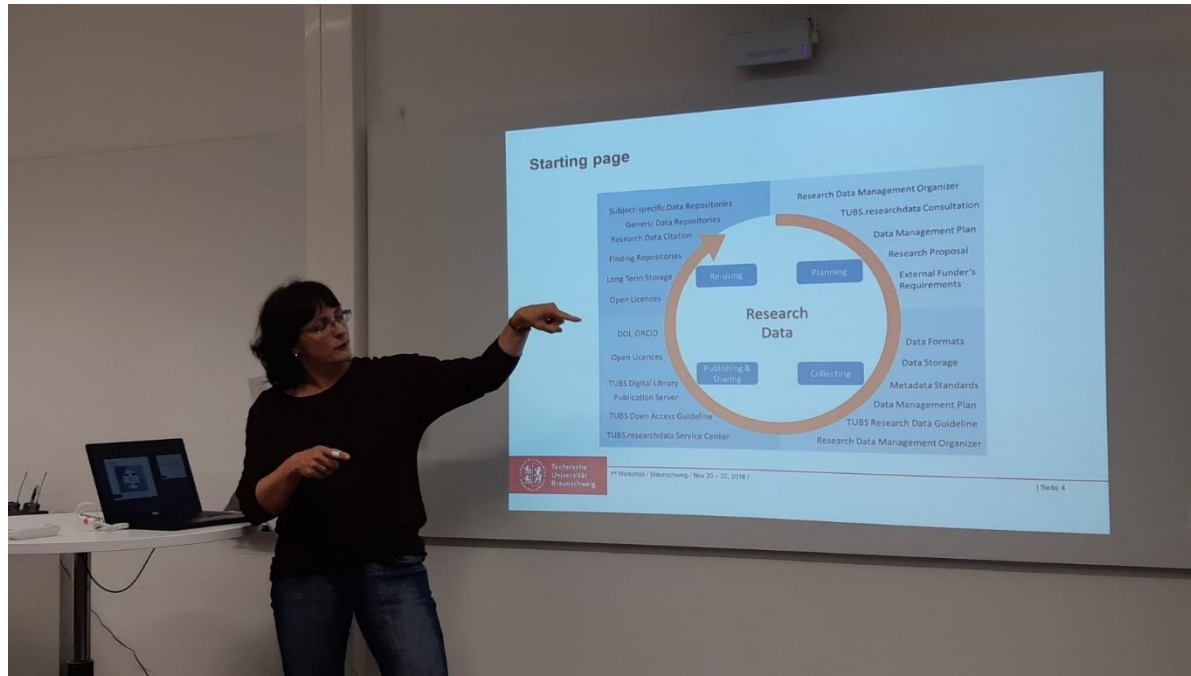
1. Workshop Braunschweig

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- Learned a lot of different national context in open science and research data management

- Interviewed a researcher from a seed fund research project on a "hot chair"

- Discussed opportunities of future cooperation

- Found more common topics like open access fund, bibliometrics and research information system

2. Workshop Tampere

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- Reviewed work after first workshop
- Informed about new developments
- Exiting discussion with key researches with a strong awareness on research data management and sharing
- Discussed future cooperation

Outcomes

- Mutual learning
- "Extended team" + trust
- Broadened perspectives and understanding, exchange of knowledge
- Using advanced practise of Tampere University Library Research Data Management to create a self-service website of Technische Universität Braunschweig
- Strengthening our international networking (e.g. Erasmus and CESAER)
- Lay the groundwork (seed) for future projects
- Discussion with internationally cooperative researchers about international cooperation
- Increased visibility of services
- Increased visibility as internationally connected actors

Outlook – what may come next

- We are looking for a continuous cooperation (and further funding)
- A joint a visit to TU Delft Library Research Data Services: benchmarking data stewardship model
- A bigger workshop with a focus on technical universities and fields
- Cooperation with other interest groups focusing on technical fields such as engineering (RDA)
- Regular Skype meetings (2-3 times/year)
- Article about the collaboration and challenges in service development
- Broaden the integration to researchers in service development
- Provide training materials in English (and share them in Zenodo) – "training material literacy"
- Self-evaluation of services
- Contacting other seed-funded projects for collaboration → offer customised training

Lessons learned

- No pilot for joint research data services Tampere / Braunschweig
  - Seed fund research projects are in a very early state of exploring common research projects in future
  - Seed fund research projects are not very aware of research data topics
- No concept for joint research data services Tampere / Braunschweig
  - No evident need for bilateral joint services without bilateral research projects yet
  - Focus on broader international cooperation with other partners
- But we are prepared for more … ☺

Recommendations

- Cooperation always helps!
- Think and work as internationally as researchers do
- Find a partner with similar interests – helps collaboration
- You have to have common goals
- Embrance your differences in cooperation
- Motivation and personal attitude
- Support the atmosphere with activities of leisure

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THANK YOU!