maDMP export from RDMO

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The Research Data Management Organiser (RDMO) is an open source tool that assists institutions and researchers to plan and carry out their data management. It uses an internal vocabulary called "domain" to map and abstract the user's input into questionnaires together with any other relevant information. Primarily, the goal of the Hackathon was to map RDMO's domain to maDMP in order to be able to later build an export functionality.

RDMO was designed to be an institution's or project's hub of research data management. It could be used as the one place to store all necessary information later accessible in many different ways and formats. Up to date RDMO is missing a maDMP export, although it is easy to imagine that this kind of feature would be beneficial for many users. It would help avoid unnecessary work arising from the necessity to fill the same data into multiple software tools and be able to cover different export formats.

Results

In the Hackathon our team analysed the RDMO domain model and had an intensive discussion about semantic and syntactic differences compared to maDMP's data structure. During this process we established a mapping between these two data structures which formed the basis for thoughts about a technical concept of how to implement the export feature. In the process of thinking about the new feature's implementation, we realised that sometimes it was necessary to adjust already established mappings to factors determined by the technical side of software. This is why the mapping is pretty likely to evolve as part the process of software development. For implementation purposes, we decided to stick to a relatively generic solution that gives users the possibility to write their own customised export format plugins without being expert programmers. By this kind of approach we not only wanted to create an maDMP export but also keep RDMO flexible and expandable for the future.

Table 2: Properties in RDMO

Properties (= attributes in RDMO)	Number
Newly created	11
Old (matching)	28
Mapped (concatenated, by rules)	10

Left out (optional)	28
Sum	**77**

Future work

Our team was able to map most of RDMO's domain to maDMP's data structure. There is a rough overview of how successful our mapping attempts were in the table above. Furthermore we managed to implement a prototype export into RDMO that we used to demonstrate how the feature was working. Nonetheless, it will require a little more effort to be implemented cleanly. Our main objective for the future is to finish development, test the feature and make it available in a future RDMO release.