

# The Federal State Initiatives for RDM as intermediaries in a dynamic landscape of RDM infrastructures and services

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**Abstract.** A number of German federal states have established initiatives to support the institutionalization of RDM infrastructures and services. They can serve as intermediaries between disciplinary approaches to RDM like NFDI and RDM services in individual research institutions. This presentation gives an overview of the current state of these initiatives and provides an outlook on their role in creating synergies in RDM with a focus on their integrating potential for NFDI.

**Keywords:** State Initiative for RDM, Connecting RDM

Research institutions have taken up institutional approaches to providing RDM infrastructures and services at individual paces over the past years. NFDI provides a concerted disciplinary effort that despite substantial achievements has yet to integrate the wider landscape of individual researchers and institutions and to scale up infrastructures and services. Such wider adoption of standards and practices is crucial for NFDI's success.

State initiatives for RDM complement local and disciplinary approaches to RDM. As of today, the states of Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg, Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Thuringia are actively supporting institutions or networks that address RDM specifically. In some states, the state initiatives have been active from as early as 2016, preceding the inception of NFDI. Additionally, grassroots initiatives and networks exist in most of the remaining nine German states. As a whole, they form an extensive network that connects RDM-professionals and transcends disciplinary and institutional boundaries. In keeping with German federalist traditions and due to the distinctly different structural conditions in the states, the initiatives have very heterogeneous tasks and architectures [1]. They include both centralized and distributed forms of organization, and there is no uniform service portfolio.

However, they provide a broad range of infrastructures and services. Despite all differences, they share an interconnecting function that transcends individual institutions or disciplinary boundaries. This in itself makes them a valuable asset for structures like NFDI in their pursuit of engaging researchers and institutions broadly. The state initiatives have e.g. worked closely with universities of applied sciences that to date have only sparsely participated in NFDI. Through these established ties, they may markedly support efforts for their integration. Their role as intermediaries to state wide infrastructures and to the states' pertinent ministries further underscores their potential role in the coordinated development of RDM infrastructures throughout Germany [2].

In our presentation, we move from an introduction of the state initiatives to their role as intermediaries and facilitators in the RDM landscape. In doing so, we focus on their potential value for NFDI. We provide an overview of the current status and foreseeable development of the initiatives as well as the infrastructures and services for RDM that are currently offered and developed in the federal states. These include e.g. storage infrastructures and research data repositories but also consulting services and training. We suggest that the state initiatives and their affiliated services can substantially contribute to the provision and dissemination of NFDI services and outline how the state initiatives' networks and infrastructures could serve as interfaces for the integration of the broader landscape of research institutions with NFDI.

## Data availability statement

The contribution does not draw on any data.

## Author contributions

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## Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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