The North Rhine-Westphalian CRIS-Initiative CRIS.NRW
An update on a cooperative approach

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Dr. Malte Kramer
North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) within the German CRIS Environment

Discussion on research information initiated by German Council of Science and Humanities

German science system is organised in a federal structure (16 independent states)

NRW: autonomy of universities
North Rhine-Westphalia’s Academic Landscape

Population: 17.9m
(would NRW be a state, it would be amongst the 10 biggest states of the EU)

70 universities
770k students
50k scientific employees

CRIS.NRW focuses on all 30 public state universities
14 universities
16 universities of applied sciences
Kerndatensatz Forschung (KDSF)
The "new" German reporting standard in research

- Specified by the Science Council in 2016
- Aim: Standardization of existing reporting requirements in the field of research
- Six areas with a total of 17 core data and numerous differentiations
- Distinction between kernel and shell
- Two levels of data:
  - Basic data (remain in school)
  - Aggregate data or core data (used in reports)
- Compatible with CERIF

https://kerndatensatz-forschung.de/
CRIS.NRW

- Ability to report according to core data set research (KDSF) of the universities as a goal
- Introduction of a research information system (FIS) comprehensively accompanied by CRIS.NRW
- HISinOne-RES + VIVO as a technical solution

consultation and self-help support for universities regarding the KDSF and CRIS

service provider for installation and setup of CRIS

system operator for the CRIS instances of the universities

Support facility

reporting provider for the universities

interface function between universities and CRIS community

exchange function between universities and the CRIS community moderator of the NRW-wide dialogue and know how transfer

interface function between universities and software provider

manager of requirements within NRW
Benefits by the CRIS.NRW solution

- **Software as a Service**
  - Provision of a professional technical infrastructure including IT security concept according to BSI basic protection (core protection)
  - Bundled L2 support by CRIS.NRW
  - Central quality control for new software versions
  - Editorial services by CRIS.NRW for increased data quality (including journal lists and other identifiers)

- **Saves resources**
  - **Discounted group price** for HISinOne-RES software licenses
  - Economies of scale enable more efficient operations
  - University saves resources in implementation, operation, support and data maintenance

- **Stronger together**
  - Influence on further developments of the HISinOne-RES software
  - Strong voice of the NRW universities when coordinating with regional and national stakeholders
  - Coordination with other digitization networks in NRW

**Economies of scale enable more efficient operations**
More than 20 different connections to external systems have already been implemented, e.g.

- SAP-HCM (Personenstammdaten)
- SAP (Projektdaten)
- LibreCat/PUB (Repositorium)
- BASE (Publ.-datenbank)
- CrossRef
- Web of Science
- PubMed
- EVALuna
- Ebsco
- MACH
- ... more in preparation!
Multiple Challenges

- Building a **team** (people, skills, organizational structure,...)
- Becoming a **service provider** (service catalogue, services processes, documentation)
- Building a **federation/cooperation** – (governance, contracts, mutual understanding, ...)
- German interpretation of **data privacy** („Voratsdatenspeicherung!“)
- **Digitalization** was, is, and will be a big **challenge**
  - some fields are not cultivated (yet)
    - e.g. organizational structure, process documentation, ...
    - ➔ 30 Universities = 30 individual foundations

https://www.lifehack.org/868287/perspective-on-life
Interim conclusion

Are we there, yet?
   No!

Are we as fast as planed?
   It depends on your perspective!

Do we have accomplished everything that we have planed?
   We have not yet accomplished everything that we have planed,
   but we have accomplished more than we have planed!
Thank you for your attention!

malte.kramer@cris.nrw
www.cris.nrw
0049 251 83-30357