CRIS2018 extended abstract

Title:
The past, present and future role of CRIS's in the research data life cycle. A case study on how a CRIS supports the implementation of a FAIR RDM policy at Radboud University (Nijmegen, the Netherlands)

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Abstract:
In 2016, Radboud University (Nijmegen, The Netherlands) started a project to extend its CRIS (METIS) with a functionality that allows researchers to register (metadata) and archive (uploading files) their research data (through the CRIS) while at the same time making the data available for reuse in a FAIR way (via national Dutch data archive DANS).

The new functionality was integrated with already existing functions in the CRIS, thus offering a "one stop shop" interface to researchers in which registration and archiving of data is combined with registration of publications, the uploading of full text to the university's repository, the linking of datasets and publications and the creation of researcher's profile (CV) pages. Apart from the functional extension of the CRIS, the project also included an organizational element: the establishment of support and management structures and workflows, including data curation processes, in order to assure the quality of the data registration process and to foster the FAIRness of the research data.

In 2017 and 2018, we continue(d) to transform the university's CRIS, bringing it in line with the research data life cycle perspective on and policy changes in research data management. The aim is, first, to continue to improve the interface and support for the researchers; second, we also aim at integrating functions for research institutes and their data stewards to optimally monitor their discipline-specific data policies.
One of these transformations is the addition of a Data Management Plan (DMP) module, allowing researchers to formulate and register their DMP's via the CRIS. The functionality of the new DMP-module includes the possibility to define and use tailor-made funder or institute specific DMP-templates and protocols and the profiling of DMP's (on researchers' profile pages). Furthermore, a fully-fledged support workflow is added, allowing the data stewards and/or central RDM support to provide discipline-specific feedback via the CRIS. This new functionality is about to be implemented as we speak (spring 2018).

In the paper it will be argued and demonstrated that both for researchers and research institutes, a CRIS oriented approach to research data management brings added value. We will furthermore point to elaborated future use cases that put a central role for CRIS's even earlier within the research data life cycle, e.g. at pre-registration of research questions and informed consent/ethical approval procedures.

We envision our CRIS to play a linking pin function between (different) storage and service locations of data during research and at publication. For the latter, we already have a use case, as we are currently working on linking the big data repository of our Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour via our CRIS to the Dutch national CRIS NARCIS, thus connecting the stored open access data (at the local Donders Institute) with the national service (NARCIS) that makes the data FAIR.

The paper will use Radboud University as a good practice of past, present and future use of CRIS's in the research data life cycle that universities and research institutes as well as researchers and research support desks are currently dealing with in the FAIR data era.

Keywords:
CRIS, Metis, Radboud University, Data life cycle, Research data management, RDM, FAIR, Research data policy, Data stewards, Monitoring data, Project registration, Data management plans, DMP, Archiving data, Narcis, DANS data archive, Donders repository