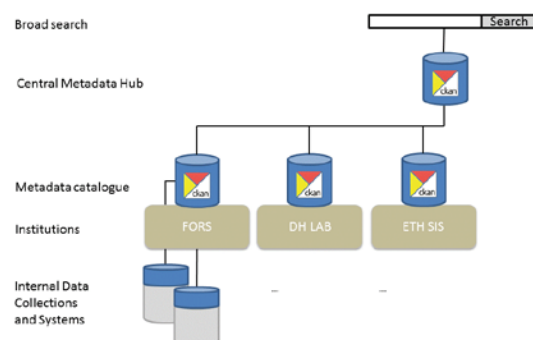


Open Research Data platform Switzerland: To make scientific data more visible and available

With the Open Research Data project (ORD@CH), a Swiss publication platform for open research data is currently being built and made available to the public. The platform will be characterized by easy access to data.

Research data are generally recorded, analyzed, disseminated, and archived within the scope of subject-specific projects. After their completion the data are stored at each institution's infrastructure, and they are not visible or available to other researchers or a wider circle of interested individuals. These circumstances hinder considerably the secondary use of data and are rather obstructive with regard to new scientific knowledge production, the verification of research findings, and a resource-saving approach to research funding.

With the Open Research Data project platform Switzerland (ORD@CH), FORS, as Lead institution, the Digital Humanities Lab of the University of Basel, the ETHZ Scientific IT Services, and the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics are constructing a publication platform for publicly available research data in Switzerland. The platform will be introduced as a pilot project in spring 2015, and will consist primarily of a metadata catalogue for datasets of the participating institutions.



The project ORD@CH is inscribed within the framework of the program "Scientific Information: access, processing and storage" of the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities (Program SUK 2013-2016 P-2), and runs from July 2014 to December 2015. From 2016 onwards, the pilot platform will continue to operate as a permanent metadata infrastructure for open research data in Switzerland.

The Open Source Frameworks CKAN will be used as technical platform, which has proved effective in numerous open data projects worldwide.

The modular structure of the CKAN infrastructure will allow datasets of additional institutions to be progressively accessed, with their metadata integrated into the central catalogue. After the completion of the pilot project, the platform will continue to operate and be further developed to serve as a metadata hub for all research data in Switzerland.

For further information, please consult the following page:

www.openresearchdata.ch