

Key Insights from the HMC Data Professionals Survey 2024: Enhancing Research Data Management Practices

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- HMC Data Professionals Survey 2024 to investigate RDM-practices across the Helmholtz Association, focusing on FAIR (meta)data practices, data policies, professional training, RDM-related tools, gaps and needs.
- The survey targeted Helmholtz staff with RDM-related tasks and highlighted challenges, common themes, and needs in managing research data, offering insights into the status quo and areas for improvement.
- Survey data collected from 156 respondents in 16 centers will guide HMC's strategy to develop tailored support and resources, enhancing RDM practices and addressing identified gaps across the Helmholtz Association.

HMC Data Professionals Survey 2024

Target group: Data Professionals (staff with RDM-related tasks) in the Helmholtz Association

- RDM-related work is done across institutional levels in Helmholtz.

60 %

of respondents work on enriching data and/or software with metadata. (n=156)

56 %

of respondents work on publishing data and/or software in a FAIR compliant way. (n=156)

- We identify a clear need for training on RDM-related topics.

75 %

of respondents report not to have had training for their RDM-related tasks. (n=145)

59 %

of respondents report to be interested in training. (n=133)

- Multiple obstacles are expressed related to RDM-related work in Helmholtz.

82 %

of respondents report a lack of resources (time, personnel, funding). (n=152)

34 %

of respondents report a lack of technical solutions. (n=152)

- Center policies or guidelines are usually implemented.

75 %

are aware of official guidelines or policies at their center. (n=142)

70 %

of those who are aware of their center's guidelines tend to or fully align their work with them. (n=98)

- RDM-related tools were reported to be used across Helmholtz: Git, RDMO, ORCID, DublinCore, DataCite, schema.org, re3data, ...

7

RDM-related tools were reported to be used in at least half of all Helmholtz centers.

70

RDM-related tools were reported to be (co-)de-veloped by Helmholtz staff.

- Alignment with FAIR (meta)data practices was self-assessed using an adoption of the FAIR-Aware questionnaire.¹

56 %

of respondents report that data they process or publish, usually or always is assigned a PID. (n=138)

35 %

of respondents report that data they process or publish, usually or always has metadata based on controlled vocabularies. (n=141)

Coming soon!

Report: A survey report is now under review and will be published soon.

Dataset: An interoperable dataset is planned to be published for reuse.

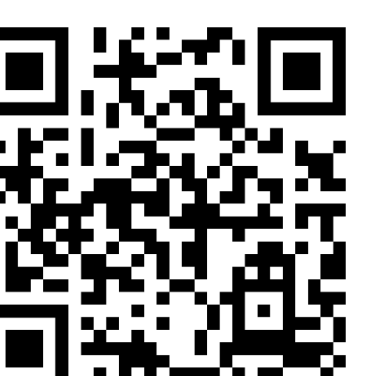
Dashboard: A dashboard for exploring the survey data is in preparation.

Suggested Approach for 2025+

- We suggest to prepare a unified question catalogue to be potentially reused in future surveys.
- We suggest to prepare an annually recurring Community Survey, targeting researchers² and research data professionals in Helmholtz.

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- **Save the date!** May 12th-14th, 2025 in Cologne, Germany
- **Why join?** The HMC Conference 2025 offers a dynamic environment to present ideas, discuss challenges, and explore solutions across disciplines. Whether you're a researcher, software developer, data steward, or infrastructure provider, this event is designed to foster meaningful discussions and new collaborations.
- **Register:** <https://hmc2025.welcome-manager.de/>



References:

¹ Data Archiving and Networked Service. FAIR-Aware: Your first step towards your FAIR dataset (2021). URL: <https://fairaware.dans.knaw.nl/> (accessed March 19, 2025)

² Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration (2022). A survey on research data management practices among researchers in the Helmholtz Association. DOI: [10.3289/HMC_publ_05](https://doi.org/10.3289/HMC_publ_05)