



Summary Annual Report RDM Network 2025

The Research Data Management (RDM) Network looks back on a highly active year in 2025, marked by strong engagement across faculties, departments, and institutes. The continued commitment of data stewards, infrastructure and service providers ensured that RDM support remained closely aligned with the needs of researchers and deeply embedded in local research contexts.

We would like to sincerely thank all members of the RDM Network and collaborating partners – for their expertise, dedication, and ongoing contributions.

Highlights of the Network Members

The RDM Network brings together decentralized data stewards embedded in faculties, departments, and institutes, as well as central service and infrastructure providers across the university. Together, they support researchers with research data management expertise, services, and infrastructure throughout the data lifecycle.

Consultation and Embedded Support

Embedded data stewards and central service providers advised on topics such as data management plans, data protection and ethics applications, anonymization and pseudonymization of data, encryption, data organization and storage strategies for large volume data, automatic transcription of audio and textual data, code review, repository selection and data publication, and the responsible use of AI.

Training and Capacity Building

Training and teaching activities formed a central pillar of member engagement. Topics included RDM fundamentals, faculty-specific data management tools, electronic lab notebooks, image data management, and software tools such as Gephi, GitHub, RStudio, LaTeX, Tropy and Transkribus. Dedicated AI training formats addressed emerging needs around automation and large language models. Data stewards also organized tailored RDM inputs for their faculties and departments and invited speakers. sciCORE contributed to 20 courses in scientific computing, data management, and data analysis, reaching over 400 participants. The Data Protection Office delivered trainings on data protection and data classification, including the development and implementation of the mandatory [ADAM self-study course on data classification](#). DaSCH offered webinars together with FORS on [FAIR and CARE Principles, Authority data, standards and metadata](#), [documentation of research data](#) and [Informed consent](#), as well as individual training sessions for projects.

Guidelines, Processes, and Local Implementation

Several network members developed guidelines and resources to support sustainable RDM practices. For example, in collaboration with the RDM Coordination Team, the data steward at the Faculty of Psychology published a [lifecycle-oriented best-practices document for research data management](#). Other members explored the integration of RDM sessions into the curriculum, established internal SOPs, and strengthened departmental processes around data contracts, REDCap usage, and secure data handling. At the Institute for Educational Sciences, RDM was addressed via a new [information sheet on criteria for research ethics and data protection in the context of master's theses](#). The [Research Ethics Committee](#) introduced a [new regulation](#) in November 2025, including mandatory review criteria for research projects.

Infrastructure, Tools, and Technical Innovation

Central service and infrastructure providers supported RDM at scale. DKF launched new services such as an e-Consent solution for clinical studies and a risk-based study management process. sciCORE and CeDA supported thousands of active users across high-performance computing, research data storage, and secure environments, implemented enhanced security standards, expanded LabKey services, and explored on-premise hosting of large language models for sensitive data.



Outreach, Communication, and Community Engagement

Network members raised awareness of RDM services and good practices through departmental presentations, institute meetings, newsletters, websites, intranet pages, and mailing lists, as well as targeted visits to research groups and PIs. Members also co-organized and contributed to community events such as Love Data Week, ReproducibiliTea Basel, SwissRN meetings, and national workshops, strengthening exchange within the university and beyond.

Highlights from the RDM Coordination Team

Continuity and Advancement of the Data Stewardship Program

A major focus in 2025 was the successful completion of the swissuniversities-funded Data Stewardship Project (01.2023–06.2025). A network-wide sprint resulted in the guideline “[Management of Digital Research Data at the End of a Project](#)”, which was published in February 2025 and has already received strong attention with more than 700 views. Important structural and strategic developments resulted in an updated governance of the RDM Network and the establishment of a strategy group supporting the network’s strategic development. The group began its work after the project’s completion, meeting twice in the second half of the year to identify and cluster relevant RDM topics and to lay the groundwork for prioritizing strategic goals. Furthermore, based on an internal evaluation of the RDM pilot courses in doctoral education, an RDM training concept and a University of Basel-specific RDM learning objective matrix were developed. The project results were consolidated in a final [project report](#) and disseminated within the university and at the national level.

The swissuniversities-funded follow-up project “[Advancement of the Data Stewardship Program and Research Data Management Support at the University of Basel](#)” started in July 2025, focusing on supporting researchers in integrating the university-wide data classification into their RDM workflows. Together with researchers and data stewards from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Institute for Biomedical Ethics, and the Institute of Nursing Science, three concrete use cases were developed for digital survey data, interview data, and routine data from healthcare institutions. The resulting workflows and guidelines will be finalized in 2026 and subsequently be generalized to enable reuse across disciplines and for additional data types.

In December 2025, an additional project proposal was approved by swissuniversities to extend the ongoing project until January 2027. It focuses on data curation, including data publication, reuse, and the application of AI, and a follow-up evaluation of the workflows developed with research groups.

Network Coordination and Network Activities

By the end of 2025, the RDM Network at the University of Basel comprised 16 central service and infrastructure providers and 37 data stewards, with a total of 71 members. New additions include the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and intensified collaboration with IT Services. The RDM coordination team welcomed Stephanie Heinrich on January 1, 2025, bringing fresh energy and new ideas to ongoing projects. Iris Lindenmann left the team at the end of July, after many years of dedication and valuable contributions.

Regular RDM Weeklies and semester kick-off events continued to provide a platform for members to exchange information on current developments and RDM-related questions. A highlight of the fall semester kick-off was the participation of the Vice President for Research, Primo Schär.

The train-the-trainer program continued to offer courses and workshops for network members, covering topics such as data protection, IT services, research ethics, M365 introduction, and data classification, supporting ongoing professional development within the network.

Preparations for a university-wide sprint on storage infrastructures, services, and processes in early 2026 included stakeholder dialogues, a landscape analysis of existing infrastructures, a survey on researchers’ needs, and a pre-report. The sprint will consist of three workshops and conclude with a report outlining recommendations for the further development of storage solutions at the University of Basel.



Extensive RDM Training and Support for Researchers and Students

The RDM Network offered a range of training activities for researchers and students, including RDM courses within the PhD Toolbox organized by the Digital Humanities Lab, a two-day interdisciplinary RDM workshop as part of the transferable skills program, RDM courses in faculty-specific graduate schools (GSMHS and GS-HSS), and a session on data management within the Laboratory Animal Science (LTK) course. The coordination team of the RDM Network also contributed sessions on data organization in information, data, and media literacy (IDM) courses for bachelor's and master's students.

Preparation of new Information and Outreach Materials

Besides regular maintenance of the [RDM Network website](#), the revision of the [RDM cheat sheets](#) was completed, with refreshed design and updated content, including new topics on [data preparation for publishing in repositories](#), [publishing research data on Zenodo](#), [data archiving](#), and [finding and reusing research data](#). Two promotional [RDM postcards](#) were created, and English translations of use cases on handling personal data in qualitative research were published on the [website](#) and [Zenodo](#). Editorial work on the [researchdata website](#) included new content on [project end and offboarding](#), [data transfer solutions](#), [FAIR principles](#), [data backup](#), [data access regulations](#), and [research ethics](#), along with a [glossary](#) of key RDM terms. A new [Intranet space](#) for the RDM Network and listing on the University's [Welcome Portal](#) increased visibility for new staff.

Active Participation in National and International Networks and Activities

The coordination team contributed to the [Swiss Research Data Support Network \(SRDSN\)](#), both during and after the project phase as members of the Steering and Operational Committees. They were involved in [swissuniversities mandates](#), the AKORD working group, the Swiss editorial group of [forschungsdaten.info](#), and the [re3data](#) editorial board. Conference participation included a [poster presentation on RDM training](#) at the [19th International Digital Curation Conference \(IDCC25\)](#) in The Hague and a [keynote on the University of Basel's Data Stewardship Program](#) at [FDM@Campus](#) in Göttingen. National engagements featured the Basel node of the [Swiss Reproducibility Network](#) and a presentation at the [Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association \(SGV\) 2025 conference](#).

Further Activities

For the first time, the university took part in a [survey on RDM practices](#) organized by the EPFL, with results to be published in 2026. An internal survey on electronic lab notebooks (ELNs) collected an overview of researchers' documentation practices, with detailed analysis and university-wide recommendations planned for the future. The maturity of RDM services was evaluated using the [Research Infrastructure Self-Evaluation Framework](#) from the Digital Curation Centre in Edinburgh.

Outlook for 2026

In 2026, the RDM Network will continue the practical implementation of data classification in research workflows, further strengthen data curation through targeted training offers for both RDM professionals and researchers as well as the development of guidelines and processes. Storage solutions for research data will gain particular attention at the beginning of the year via the planned network-wide sprint. The RDM Network will continue to foster exchange and peer-to-peer learning as a living community.