

Outline/scoping document

Summary: As part of the [Education And Training On Handling Of Research Data IG](#) (ETHRD-IG), this focus group on collecting tools and “places” such as catalogues and repositories for learning / training resources and educational materials (short: [Learning Resource Collectors Focus Group](#)) aims to provide a snapshot of openly available learning/training resource collections that are gathered and described by means of a catalogue.¹ The inventory is intended to provide guidance to research creation and research support organizations in higher education and elsewhere on the characteristics that relate to their sustainability and quality assurance practices. The ultimate goals of these efforts are to help resource collecting organisations become more sustainable, and to help the individuals they serve find high quality Research Data Management (RDM) related learning / training resources and educational materials that are findable over the longer term.

Aim

To conduct a globally inclusive, crowdsourced and community vetted inventory of catalogues, repositories and other places for learning / training resources and educational materials. The inventory is intended to include brief descriptions that characterize each collecting organization in terms of its own sustainability and quality assurance practices. It is a first step towards a global RDM community effort to gather and improve the means by which these kinds of resource collections can be found and are maintained.

Audience

The inventory is intended to benefit research institutes and other research creation organizations, and research support staff both within formal higher education venues and more informal venues who provide services to train researchers and students about research data management throughout the full research and data life cycles. We also envision that this inventory could be used by international projects such as the EOSC² in order to improve or build their services.

Focus

The inventory will include catalogues (which contain descriptive and location information on individual and/or collected learning / training resources and supporting educational materials), repositories and other places where information about such resources is collected and made accessible to a defined community. The main focus will be **collections** of resources, and consequently, our inventory won't include individual training resources (of course, the catalogues and repositories on the list will).

The inventory will provide very limited characteristics of the catalogues, repositories and other places focused upon aspects that describe how these collection tools are sustained and how they maintain the quality of their inventory. The inventory is not intended to provide detailed descriptions or analyses. Concurrent, related activities have been initiated by the Interest Group, namely the [Minimal Metadata for Learning Resources](#) focus group and the [Extended Documentation Enabling Reuse of Learning Resources](#) focus group, which will provide recommendations for terms, metadata schemas and types of documentation for learning resources for adoption by the catalogues, repositories and other places.

¹ See <https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat-s/>

² <https://www.eoscpilot.eu/>

Dissemination

The first iteration of the inventory will be disseminated for comments and contributions as a google spreadsheet via the ETHRD-IG [wiki page](#).