

## Beyond lifetimes: what does archiving mean for research data?

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### Abstract:

Archiving is an everyday task, but in terms of the German legal system, it is also a defined process assigned to specialized institutions. State archives, academic, municipal, business, political, and private archives hold the historical record of the institution they take care of. Historical records are defined very broadly and not confined to the subjects people expect in history books. There are registers, journals, data timelines, photographs, audio and video recordings, both in analog and digital form. Similar processes are carried out by some research libraries.

As a person involved in the NFDI Sections Common Infrastructures and Ethical and Legal Aspects, most prominently of the Long Term Archival and Access Group, and as proxy of my colleagues in the memory institutions mentioned above, I would like to engage with the NFDI community on how the German academic society would like to configure archiving of research data, i.e. keeping data of various kinds available beyond the lifespan of hardware and software. This includes steps beyond the end of life of data centers, data formats, encoding schemes, or even business models. Our current legislation supports the view that some fine tuning in the legal setting is changing, maybe even more. Are these moves well-reflected or ad hoc solutions? Are these movements similar in all areas of science?

See (partly in German)

<https://archive20.hypotheses.org/13005>

<https://www.zotero.org/groups/5240872/nestortoolbox/collections/CGRK6EFP>

**Keywords:** legislation, continuity, archival law, sustainability