Lib4RI-
UPDATE
#44

Feb 2026

The new DORA – join us to celebrate and to learn about new features and developments

Archive, bibliography, Open Access repository – the institutional repository DORA fulfils many different tasks for the four research institutes (4RIs). After years of reliable service, the time had come to give DORA a fresh look. With support from Amazee Labs, we reached a first milestone for a modern and performative DORA: a new frontend that combines enhanced user experience with new functionalities.

Go to DORA

Celebrate with us the launch of the new DORA and learn about its features

We invite you to join us for a short presentation about DORA and its features. We have organised in-person events at all three Lib4RI sites:
- **26.02.2026, WSL**, library, General Purpose Building MG, E30, starting at 17:00
- **02.03.2026, Eawag/Empa campus**, library, Forum Chriesbach, B30, starting at 17:00

- **03.03.2026, PSI**, Auditorium, WHGA/001, starting at 17:00

We will give a short presentation about the past, present and future of DORA and will be supported by members of the respective directorates. On 02.03. (Eawag/Empa campus) we will be joined by members of the external development team (Amazee Labs).

These presentations will be followed by an apero, where we are happy to learn about your needs and wishes for DORA. Help us plan by registering soon!

Join at WSL   **Join at Eawag-Empa**   **Join at PSI**

The new features in detail

- **Graphical user interface:** The new graphical user interface offers better visual aids to guide users and is optimised for display on different screen sizes, including smartphones.
- **General Search:** DORA now offers a general search that lists search results across all 4RIs. This combined search allows researchers to identify other 4RI groups working on similar topics.
- **Increased security:** The DORA data is now safe behind a firewall, communicating with the new frontend via selected, controlled channels. This setup allows us to block external access to sensitive elements of the DORA database more efficiently.
- **Linking DORA and institutional webpages:** Links to your personal institutional webpage and that of your department will be shown next to your name on publication pages. This will support a better integration of DORA with institutional webpages and increase the visibility of research outputs.

DORA publication list on your website

DORA search links and publication lists on personal and institutional websites that were created using the previous instructions continue to work. However, due to the system changes, other website links might be broken. If you face issues with this, please contact dora@lib4ri.ch.

More features for DORA are coming

The launch of the new DORA frontend is just the beginning; several additional features will be added in the coming months.

- **New backend:** We will migrate the DORA data to a new backend system that will offer increased security and performance. This will also make DORA more interoperable with other repositories and databases, making it easy to find connections between publications in DORA and other research outputs (publications, research data, code).
- **AI-ready metadata:** We will implement a Model Context Protocol (MCP) server that will make DORA data accessible to different Large Language Models (LLMs) and inform and support the

responses they generate.
- ○ **Increasing visibility:** We plan to use LLMs to create lay summaries of research articles in DORA. See below for more information and for becoming a tester for this project.

Lay summaries by AI large language models (LLMs) – Become a tester!

How can we make research results from 4RI researchers more accessible to a wider audience? Our tests show that LLMs can write comprehensible lay summaries for the wider public. To test this in more detail and to get the feedback and opinions from 4RI researchers, we ask you to help us by becoming a tester for this project. If you are interested, please contact us at dora@lib4ri.ch.

Library news

No news on Springer Nature negotiations

Negotiations led by swissuniversities are ongoing, but have not yet concluded. We will provide any updates as we learn more. If you have questions, concerns, or need to explore alternative publishing options, please get in touch with us. Read more here.

Save the date for the Digital Clean-up Day 2026!

Every year, on the third Saturday in March, it's time to declutter - not your closet, but your digital life! Digital Cleanup Day, happening this year on 21 March, is a global initiative that encourages everyone to tidy up their digital spaces in the name of sustainability. Lib4RI is participating again this year - join us and take a look at your digital waste! Read more here.

New: expanded research data management pages

Thanks to feedback from researchers and the scientific-IT teams across the four research institutes, we have expanded and reorganised our Research Data Management pages. The update introduces an interactive navigation wheel and more than a dozen new or revised pages that make it easier to find the guidance and services you need. Go directly to the pages here.

Hiring: Head of Lib4RI (m/f/d) 80-100%

Due to the retirement, we are looking for a new Head of the Scientific Library Lib4RI (m/f/d) 80 - 100%. The position will be employed by Eawag, Dübendorf, ZH. Preferred starting date is 1 January 2027 or by arrangement. The application deadline is 31 March 2026. Read more here.

Electronic resources: changes in 2026

The publishing landscape is evolving, impacting how research is published and accessed. We are starting the year with important updates to our e-resources collections. While we are trialling new services and Open Access options, we are also facing temporary challenges with publisher agreements. Here is everything you need to know. Read more here.

Open Access at Eawag

In a recent article, Eawag highlighted its commitment to Open Science. More than 87% of Eawag's scientific publications from 2020 to 2024 are publicly accessible through DORA, says Lib4RI head

Lothar Nunnenmacher. Read more here.

Did you know ...?

Source: Lib4RI

... the library can help you with your research data management?

With funding from the swissuniversities Open Science Programme, we were able to temporarily staff a team of data stewards. Having trouble setting up the data management plan for your upcoming proposal? Want to learn more about version control? We got you covered! Find an overview on our website or contact the team via data@lib4ri.ch!

Beyond the library

Funding / SNSF to adapt OA funding

Open access to scientific publications has become the norm. Starting in 2027, the SNSF will limit its funding for Open Access (OA). It will be offering researchers new options for publishing articles free of charge. Read more here.

Publishing / arXiv vs. AI slop

As of 21 January 2026, first-time posters to the platform need an endorsement from an established author. arXiv states that the policy update was necessary to face "the flood of low-quality, non-scientific submissions". Read more here.

Tracking / Elsevier to close controversial Researchfish platform

In an online statement, Elsevier said it had made the "difficult decision to sunset Researchfish on 31 July 2027", after which the impact-tracking service will no longer be available. Read more here.

Career / Experiences with narrative CVs

A newly published report from the Luxembourg National Research Fund examines narrative

Opinion / Scientific production in the era of large language models

With the production process rapidly evolving, science policy must consider how institutions could evolve. Read more here.

Opinion / Against the Uncritical Adoption of 'AI' Technologies in Academia

Following an Open Letter, several Dutch scientists call for responsibility in the adoption of AI tools in the academic world. Read more here.

Event / The Barcelona Declaration in Switzerland

The Barcelona Declaration targets the openness of research information for transparent academic decision-making. Meet the Swiss signatories at the free online SOAD spring meeting. Read more here.

Podcast / Future knowledge: The public domain

An insightful interview with James Boyle, one of the founding members of Creative Commons, on the contemporary importance of the public domain - and what is at stake if we give it up too easily. Listen here.

CVs, a format that became standard three years ago. Read more [here](#).

Lib4RI - Library for the Research Institutes within the ETH Domain: Eawag, Empa, PSI & WSL

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