

Cost calculator for DMP

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Why a cost calculator?



In recent years, funding agencies, governments, and international organizations issued a series of research **data management and sharing policies**, like the H2020^[1]. Researchers are encouraged or required to share their production in an open way, including attached publications and data^[2].



One consequence of those policies for researchers is the obligation to provide a **DMP (Data Management Plan)** when applying for funding. The DMP describes the life-cycle of the data during the funded project. As a consequence, many university libraries developed services around research data management to support researchers^{[3a][3b]}.



Among the many information required in a DMP, some are related to the **costs** that researchers will face for their **data management, storage or curation**. Those questions are usually laborious, as the applicant needs to have full knowledge of existing providers for storage, archives or publication services. The service providers can be part of their institution or exist outside.



In this context, the Research Data Management team of EPFL Library developed an **online tool**, creating a central place for researchers to easily **find and calculate the costs** related to their data life-cycle^[4].

A tool for researchers



The tool is a **single webpage**, divided in three parts:

- a dynamic part in which the researcher can calculate the cost
- a resume table that can be exported
- a short manual for using the tool



Service providers are divided into categories (for example Data Repository, Publication, ELN...). If a service provider is not included in the database, the researcher can **add it manually**.



The researcher can fill the different fields according to his/her needs and calculate the cost for the entire project. The tool includes several options for each service provider to reflect the **most accurate cost**. The website provides an automatic currency conversion based on the current exchange rate.



When the whole process is complete, the researcher can **export** a table with all information in the DMP by a simple **copy/past** from the website.



The tool is also designed to help the researcher to prepare and think about his/her project: all the categories are automatically displayed in order to have a **complete view** of the data life-cycle. Links to EPFL Library or other relevant websites are available to find further information.

Line controls	Category	Provider information	Cost
	1. Active Storage	Google Drive Educ : Online Storage	0 CHF 0 EUR
<p>Google Storage is not recommended as the data are stored outside of Switzerland. To know more</p>			
Select a provider: Google Drive Educ			
Options: Cloud Based illimite... Rate: 0 CHF			
	1. Electronic LabBook	EPFL-SV-IT : SLIMS	56250 CHF 49427 EUR
	1. Database	EPFL-VPSI : MySQL	0 CHF 0 EUR
	1. Data Repository	Dryad : Dryad	1500 CHF 1318 EUR
	1. Collaborative Repository	GitHub : GitHub	0 CHF 0 EUR
Total Cost for 5 years			Total Cost: 57750 CHF Total Cost: 50745 EUR

Make it yours!



We decided to create an **open tool** to allow installation, personalization and reuse by anyone. Therefore the tool is available under General Public License (GPL).



The web engine can be **easily installed** on any webserver or even directly from a GitHub repository (by using pages). No external code is needed. The cost database is directly included in the tool and can be **easily changed** without any particular technical knowledge. A documentation is attached to the project in order to adapt the database and the website.



The tool is completely **flexible**: categories can be removed or added, providers can be added as needed, and different business models are already integrated in the tool. Many options can directly be adapted (such as name, logo...) in order to allow a **complete tool customization**.

References

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- [3a] : Peters, C., Dryden, A.R.: Assessing the Academic Library's Role in Campus-Wide Research Data Management: A First Step at the University of Houston. Sci. Technol. Libr. 30, 387-403 (2011). DOI : <https://doi.org/10.1080/0194262X.2011.626340>
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