DataCite Newsletter
February 2021

What's new?

♦ **General Assembly Announcement.** DataCite's Annual Business Meeting of the General Assembly will be hosted virtually on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 16:30 (CEST). DataCite members can register using this link. On the DataCite blog, ED Matt Buys shares information on the strategic visioning activity that we will collectively embark on as a community this year.

♦ **Open Hours re-launch.** To accommodate a growing and changing DataCite community, we're re-launching Open Hours in collaboration with the product engineering team this spring with a few changes. We are also starting a new meeting series especially for those involved in leading a DataCite consortium. Read more about our plans on the DataCite blog!

♦ **DataCite's 2020 member survey.** On our blog we're sharing the outcomes of the 2020 member survey. Thanks to all who participated! 18% of respondents indicated they would like to be more involved, so don't hesitate to contact support@datacite.org if you'd like to join a DataCite group.

♦ **Launch of the DICE project.** The Data Infrastructure Capacities for EOSC (DICE) consortium brings together a network of computing and data centres, research infrastructures, and data repositories which propose to enable a European storage and data management infrastructure for EOSC, providing generic services and building blocks to store, find, access, and process data in a consistent and persistent way. Within this project, DataCite works on the integration of PID systems and provides services under virtual access.

Tech update

Consolidation of Repository Finder into DataCite Commons. Repository Finder was first developed in the Enabling FAIR data project and was extended as part of FAIRsFAIR project to support searching for repositories. User feedback and discussions with Enabling FAIR data and FAIRsFAIR participants showed us that a more integrated system with links to relevant research outputs, people, and organisations would benefit the users. This has led to consolidation of the Repository Finder tool into DataCite Commons, DataCite's integrated discovery service for PIDs. In the coming months, we will be adding a repository search to DataCite Commons to enable users to find repositories and connected PIDs. We aim to add Repository Finder functionality to DataCite Commons by December 2021 and encourage all our users to transition to using DataCite Commons.

Contacts Workflow in Fabrica. Last month we announced that we are making 3 fields (service, voting and billing contacts) on the member form mandatory to allow us to capture vital information to contact our members when needed. As part of this work, we are also improving the workflow for adding contacts to member accounts. We have started reaching out to several members to test the new workflow to help us to validate our solution. In the coming weeks, we will release the new workflow and support documentation to provide guidance on using the new workflow for adding contacts.

Welcome to new DataCite members

• National Institute for Materials Science (Japan)

• EuroFIR AISBL

• Adelphi University

• Riga Stradiņš University

Welcome to Registered Service Providers

• Dataverse
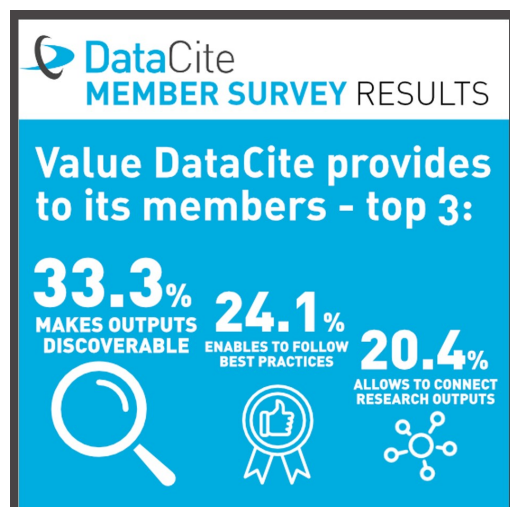
See our Service providers listing for more details and the latest list of providers.

Question of the month

Every day we receive questions about DataCite services. Each month we will share one of our favorites.

What characters should I use in the suffix of my DOI?

The easiest and recommended option is to use a randomly generated suffix. The auto-generated DOI strings use a-z, 0-9. They avoid i, l, o as they are easily mixed up with 0, 1. We group the suffix into blocks of 4, separated by a hyphen. You can generate a random suffix in both Fabrica and the API and your DOI will look something like this **10.5438/9te8-5h68**.

If you choose not to use this option then remember:

1. The DOI suffix must be unique within each prefix. The optimum length of a DOI suffix is 6–10 characters.
2. Only use a-z (lowercase), 0-9 and - in a DOI suffix. Other characters might have special meaning or will be escaped.
3. Avoid human-readable information in a DOI suffix because any meaning may change over time. Further advice on DOI syntax:

DataCite blog post
Crossref blog post
Reserved characters in Elasticsearch
Technical implementation for generating random DOI strings.