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Keeper -Archive the way you work

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The Max Planck Digital Library started a project at the end of 2015 to build up a service for all Max Planck Researchers to archive their data long term compliant and according to the rules for good scientific practice (https://www.mpg.de/232144/rulesScientificPract.pdf) of the Max Planck Society (MPS).

The technical aspects of this service were clearly specified but, as we experienced in the past, could be a bigger problem was, how do we get the researcher to deposit their data to Keeper and why is everybody using Dropbox despite of all of the known drawbacks and that it is not allowed to be used in the MPS. Therefore we decided that the aspect of a seamless integration into the working environment would be one of the key aspects whether our service would succeed or not.

After the evaluation of several software (gitlab, owncloud, pydio a.o.) we identified Seafile as the most appropriate solution for our use case.

In our talk we would like to give insight into with which infrastructure we turn Seafile into a long term compliant archive and how Seafile functions as an easy-to-use interface to this infrastructure. Currently we enhanced Seafile software with two new functionalities, first an automated certificate creation after the user provided a basic set of metadata and a project catalog site where one can overview all projects stored in Keeper. The Keeper Service is in productive use since November 2016 after a beta phase of 6 months, were researchers from about 15 different Max Planck Institutes tested our Keeper service. Currently we have two Max Planck Institutes using the Keeper Service whereupon a Max Planck wide rollout is planned for the year 2017.

The Max Planck Digital Library:

The Max Planck Digital Library (MPDL) is a central scientific service unit within the Max Planck Society (MPG) dedicated to the strategic planning, development and operation of the digital infrastructures necessary for providing the institutes with scientific information and for supporting web-based scholarly communication. The MPDL represents the Max Planck Society's goal of creating a modern, electronic infrastructure for supplying institutes with information, storing data, publishing research results and establishing web-based, scientific collaboration, while taking into account the interests of the institutes and their libraries. It is thus an instrument in safeguarding the competitiveness of the Max Planck Society in the world of international science.

Primary author: KLEINFERCHER, Friederike (Max Planck Digital Library)

Co-author: Mr MAKARENKO, Vladislav (Max Planck Digital Library)

Presenter: KLEINFERCHER, Friederike (Max Planck Digital Library)

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