

Dealing with scientific copyright inside the RDC of the Statistical Offices of the Federation and the Federal States

The Research Data Centres of the Statistical Offices of the Federation and the Federal States (RDC) have a unique data supply available which represents a fundamental keystone for scientific projects in different scientific disciplines.

Because of their tasks, the RDC staff gains regular insight into a great variety of scientific projects. Thereby, they get in contact with the researchers' intellectual property. This implies, among others, research ideas, program codes and results.

As dependable partners for scientists, the RDC allocate a high importance to the strict preservation of scientific copyright when executing data uses. The insights that are gained during the supervision of research projects are being kept confidential towards third parties.

In practice, this leads to certain limitations for the actions of the RDC staff when advising and supervising researchers within the scope of research projects:

Thus, no answers can be given on, for example, questions like the following: Are there comparable projects currently conducted with the RDC microdata? How have other researchers solved certain challenges concerning the data material? The amount of information that can be given by the RDC staff is limited by the degree of its universality and depends on whether there are already publications on this question or whether consent to the dissemination of the desired information was given.

Information on results based on RDC microdata that are already published can be found in the literature database [http://bvlb.nrw.de/fdz/Suchformular_relaunch.asp]. Using the DOI-registration of the RDC datasets established in 2018, researching results is also possible via the respective search engines (compare <https://www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de/en/citation-doi>).

The confidentiality also concerns the transfer of data between different projects. For such a data transfer, we need the written consent of the intellectual proprietor in advance in each and every case.

The RDC try to combine the best service and consultancy package possible with the overriding protection of the researchers' intellectual property. In our advising and supervising practice, this implies that we might not always be able to give you satisfactory answers to questions affecting copyright. In those cases, we kindly ask for your understanding.