An Interdisciplinary Laboratory

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How red tape and other obstacles are holding us back
About

Me

- leading a IT Team
- research in citation network analysis
- everything Open Science

IT Team Services

- Private Storage Cloud,
- Container Environment and Virtual Machines,
- Consulting in Platform & Software Development,
- Coding & Data Visualization,
- New-Toys-Setup, First-Level-Support, ...

Cluster of Excellence at Humboldt-Universitataet zu Berlin

- 400+ people, 25+ disciplines
- uncounted collaborations with academia & industry
Instead of an agenda, a list of problems

- Surveillance Concerns
  - GitLab documentation of activity is scary for privacy folk
  - How does the RSE community deal with that?

- Discrimination Concerns
  - Same money for everyone regardless of skills
  - Which argument trumps discrimination?

- Software Quality
  - Would you please come in for a pacemaker reboot?
  - Using S* for studies because R is open source?

- Reproducibility Issues
  - code submissions at conferences as container images?!
agenda ... continued

- Information Retrieval Problems
  existing solutions ignored or not found
  Do RSEs use DIRTdirectory.org, re3data.org, ... ?

- Responsibility Limited to Projects
  dev frozen, access to software and data depending on availability of former project members

- Software Sustainability is Questionable and Questioned due to project & prototype orientation

- Licensing
  use of unlicensed code and not licensing published code
agenda ... continued

- Authentication Road Blocks
  local GitLab not open for collaborating developers
- Development Process Concerns
  git what? security who?
- Contractual Issues re Intellectual Property
  projects can hardly own IP, it's always employer first
- Cost of Maintenance ignored in Funding
  Where is the money for hosting your important (abandoned) platform? Project orientation responsible for dumping results.
- Red Tape
  Charging other institutions for a (digital) service is nearly impossible due to bureaucratic commercialization overhead
Last week

- I had 1 application for an IT job because I'm not allowed to offer the money I'm entitled to according to the labor union agreement.
- Medical research team wanted an 1 TB internal SSD instead of 6 TB external RAID, because their software miscalculates numbers when writing on a non-local file systems.
- My team touched a project where developers left us a year ago but more functionality required for research.
Thanks for the attention! What are your concerns & solutions?

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- Where should RSEs step in?