

Research Data: labfolder and figshare cooperate to facilitate dissemination of scientific findings

Integration of a scientific cloud repository with a digital lab notebook opens new ways of scientific data management and communication.

- Integration of services allows direct transfer of scientific data from notebook to scientific archive
- By combining the services, it is now possible to archive datasets and their scientific context on the same platforms
- The integration is another step towards the future of scientific publishing, which will include the publication of datasets.

Berlin/London, March 26th, 2014 – Today, the direct exchange of scientific data between notebook and archive is possible by the integration of figshare, the free scientific repository, in the free digital lab notebook of labfolder. The combination of the two services facilitates scientific data transfer by allowing scientists direct deposition and publication of scientific datasets on figshare, and direct import of public datasets into labfolder.

The amount of research data is growing, challenging scientists to find new solutions for the management and exchange of knowledge. “The organization of growing amounts of research data becomes ever more challenging” says Mark Hahnel, founder of figshare. “That’s why we developed figshare: We help scientists to manage their data – and to effectively share it with their colleagues in exchange for academic credit”. Simon Bungers, co-founder and CEO of labfolder, agrees: “The problem gets worse when digital records and notes on paper are used side by side. We developed labfolder to allow a unified and compliant storage of data and notes in a digital format”.

Research is becoming more data intensive, so new ways of communicating scientific findings have to include large datasets. By obtaining a ‘Digital Object Identifier’ for every shared dataset, figshare allows the academic publication of datasets either directly or via extended journal formats like ‘Scientific Data’, a new journal format offered by scientific publisher Macmillan. “With a direct upload to the repository of figshare, we want to minimize the efforts of sharing datasets and conclusions by eliminating the need to change platforms when uploading data” says Mathias Schäffner, co-founder and CTO of labfolder.

An effective re-use of public research data is possible only if scientists can find specific pieces of evidence in the sea of information. To find these pieces, they need to be tagged with ‘metadata’: labels which indicate the content and usage of a data package. Since figshare supports the upload of ‘tagged data’, labfolder is planning to make it possible to label data already in the process of creation, instead of curating the datasets after concluding the experimental work.

Link to press material (photos, screenshots):

<https://owncloud.labfolder.com/public.php?service=files&t=d6f05703a77a5187871c90f88faf77c5>

Link to demo video:

<https://vimeo.com/89996346>

About labfolder

[labfolder](#) is a documentation and planning tool for laboratory research. At www.labfolder.com, scientists can easily plan their experiments, document their data and collaborate with other scientists, while securing intellectual property and compliance to the guidelines of good scientific practice. labfolder is free for individual scientists and small research groups. With free apps for [Android](#) and [iOS](#), labfolder allows scientists to use their smartphones and tablets as digital lab notebooks. In October 2013, Vogel Ventures, IBB Beteiligungsgesellschaft and the business angel Jan Bohl invested a high six-digit figure into the company.

About Figshare and Digital Science

Figshare was the brainchild of Mark Hahnel, who whilst studying for his PhD in stem cell biology at Imperial College, London became frustrated at not being able to publish ALL his scientific research. Figshare enables academic researchers to make all of their research outputs available in a citable, sharable and discoverable manner. The platform allows users to upload any file format to be made visualisable in the browser so that figures, datasets, media, papers, posters, presentations and filesets can be disseminated in a way that the current scholarly publishing model does not allow. Figshare is a portfolio company of Digital Science – a technology company serving the needs of scientific research. Operated by Macmillan Science & Education, it offers a range of range of scientific technology and content solutions, from intelligent knowledge discovery tools to software applications for the laboratory and decision support systems for managers. For more information, visit <http://figshare.com> and www.digital-science.com

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