

Keep it save and (not so) simple - How we archive our licensed content at the ZBW

Unlike printed works, which - once purchased - are permanently available for use in library stacks, for electronic media usage rights are only licensed and not bought. Ensuring a long-term availability in this case is first of all not in the hands of the libraries.

In the role of a negotiator, the ZBW - Leibniz Information Center for Economics acquires licenses for consortia and, as a service to the consortium participants, ensures sustainable and long-term availability for licensed electronic resources. Where possible, archiving rights are also negotiated during licensing. If a so-called “trigger event” happens (if the provider can no longer or does not want to provide the resource itself) through this it is possible to ensure the long-term availability of these electronic resources.

Based on this motivation, a workflow starting from the licensing of electronic resources ending with digital long-term archiving has been developed and tested since autumn 2021 in the project “SAVE - Systematic Archiving of E-Media”.

As a very last step in our workflow we provide the information about our archiving activities to the Keepers Registry, which is integrated in the ISSN portal. The Keepers Registry acts as a global monitor on the archiving arrangements for continuing resources including e-serials.

In this practical report we present: How the essential requirements for an IT infrastructure were determined and implemented; what experiences were made in communicating with the providers for obtaining the data and what consequences were drawn from this; What status our workflow has now reached in terms of checking the full texts for completeness, validity and integrity as well as checking the metadata for completeness and converting them as a basis for uploading to a repository; what the interaction of the many actors in the workflow looks like; and how transparency about archived publications is created not only for license participants.

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