

Securing perpetual access to licensed electronic content: Lessons learnt from project NatHosting in Germany

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Scientists can only work reliably with digital publications, in which libraries invest a significant amount of money, if access and immediate availability of the content as well as perpetual access rights are secured. The project „National Hosting of Electronic Resources“, which was funded by the German Research Foundation until 2022, developed and tested a concept which was mainly built on two pillars. In addition to negotiating a nation-wide consortium with the digital preservation service Portico, the project partners designed and built the prototype of a Private LOCKSS Network (PLN) with several nodes for content not covered by Portico. In the course of the project, it became clear for several reasons that the concept had to be modified in favour of expanding the cooperation with Portico rather than pursuing the PLN route. At the same time, a developing environment of complementary hosting solutions in Germany can be observed.

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