The "ELN Finder" – a new service around Electronic Lab Notebooks
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NFDI4Ing Conference 2023
Motivation for the ELN Finder

► "What ELN software is there that suits my purposes?"
► "How do I find all the appropriate ELNs for materials science?"
► "Which ELN systems support standard XYZ and are open source?"
► "How do I find reliable information on different ELNs?"
► „How do I compare different ELNs"?

Until the launch of the ELN finder, there was no
• reliable
• independent
• up-to-date
• complete
basis (even internationally!) for answering such questions.
Aims and Target Groups

► Aims of the ELN Finder as a permanently maintained web application:

• Possibility to search and filter records for electronic laboratory notebook software (ELNs) according to criteria or keywords (user perspective)

• Authorised editing of ELN records for the purpose of updating and maintenance (provider perspective)

► Target groups:

• Research data managers and officers
• Persons entrusted with the introduction of an ELN, e.g. infrastructure staff (library staff, IT staff, lab staff)
• Researchers who want to find a suitable ELN
The project behind the ELN Finder has been "side-tracked" since 2019 in cooperation between ZB MED Information Centre for Life Sciences (Cologne), and the University and State Library (ULB) Darmstadt.

January 2022: Call for cooperation and formation of an editorial team as well as implementation of the web portal.

Since April 2022: Further development by a 10+ member editorial team from 8 institutions.

February 2023: Official launch.

March 2023: Increased public relations work and expansion of the editorial team.
Current status

- Detailed **hierarchical criteria catalogue** defining and describing the metadata structure for the ELNs
  - **43 criteria** and associated values, **12 attributes**
  - Summary of the criteria in 7 categories:
    - General
    - Usability
    - Core functions (containing functionalities that are used for the documentation on a daily basis)
    - Extended functions (Daily work)
    - Compliance with legal requirements
    - Integration in RDM
    - IT environment
  - **Metadata schema published:** [https://doi.org/10.4126/FRL01-006452815](https://doi.org/10.4126/FRL01-006452815)
Current status

- **Web portal** on the basis of the open source software DSpace 7
  - English language interface
  - Comprehensive compilation of FAQs

- External ELN information collection created for individual ELNs

- **Data entered** from the information collection **for 30+ ELNs**

- **User manual** for contributors
Tool demonstration

► https://eln-finder.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de
Use case: List, filter and search ELNs

Filter by values

Full text search

Search Results
Now showing 1 - 10 of 24

ArxLab

Bruker BioSpin Corporation: ArxSpan Suite: ArxLab kann zusammen mit anderen Komponenten als
The Arxspan Electronic Lab Notebook System is completely cloud-based, without the need to purchase and install
servers or databases. Users of the system can be added or removed at any time with a single click. In addition, sci-
entists can be allowed access to any notebook in the system with the click of a mouse, allowing flexibility in l

Benchling

Benchling

Since 2012, Benchling has modernized the research process for over 200,000 academics at more than 7,500 uni-
v

BIOVIA Workbook

Dassault Systèmes

Eine multidisziplinäre, unternehmensweite Lösung zur Dokumentation und Verwaltung des Informations-, Aufgaben- und Materialflusses zwischen Wissenschaftlern, Software und Instrumenten innerhalb und zwischen

Laboren, insbesondere in regulierten Umgebungen wie den Biowissenschaften und der Konsumgüterindustrie.
Use case: Enter ELN software

Input criteria for an ELN software (variable values)

Click on the value "Closed Source" in the License section to make it "Open Source". There is also an option to add more notes for the Comment to License.

Source:

- Choose "Source" from the list of options.
- Select "101 = user, 102 = community, 103 = provider (direct input by the developer/provider or direct contact), 104 = provider (free to access at no cost), 105 = provider (sources only accessible for commercial clients or with registration) 106 = review, 110 = other".

Input attributes for an ELN software (fixed description)

The "Source" field is only visible in the backend. It makes it easier for the editors to trace the entries during the review.
Current developments

► Gaining international participation in the editorial team / as a contributor (= ELN editor)

► Winning the vendors of ELNs as contributors (ELN editors)
  • Time-consuming maintenance is taken over by the providers themselves = higher topicality of the content

► Improvement of help texts

► Adding more tools and maintaining the existing content

► Further development of the ELN Finder software, e.g. offering export of filtered data sets

► Offering networking possibilities between users of the same ELN system and thus enabling exchange of experience, inclusion of reference users
Join the team!

- Can you serve as a reference user for an ELN software?
- Can you be contributor for the record of an ELN software?
- Would you like to be part of the editorial team?

We would be happy to hear from you!

General contact: eln_finder_mailingliste@listserv.dfn.de

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Thank you for your attention.

www.zbmed.de

www.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de