

# Certification at DANS



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# What is DANS?

Institute of Dutch  
Academy and  
Research Funding  
Organisation  
(KNAW & NWO)  
since 2005

Mission: promote  
and provide  
permanent access  
to digital research  
information

First predecessor  
dates back to  
1964 (Steinmetz  
Foundation),  
Historical Data  
Archive 1989



# Our services

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<b>Life science and medicine</b> Instructions ⓘ ▶ Start deposit	<b>Language and literature</b> Instructions ⓘ ▶ Start deposit	<b>All other disciplines</b> Instructions ⓘ ▶ Start deposit

EASY: Electronic Archiving System for self-deposit

Data Archiving and Networked Services

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The gateway to scholarly information in the Netherlands

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Dutch Dataverse Network

POWERED BY THE Dataverse Network PROJECT v. 3.6.2

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New service from May 1<sup>st</sup> onward: Dutch Dataverse

NARCIS: Gateway to scholarly information In the Netherlands

*Door data gedreven*





# Certification at DANS

- DANS Strategy Policy 2011-2015:  
Sustained access to digital research data
- 13 targets centered around 4 strategic priorities
- Priority 1: DANS will strengthen its services by serving more users more efficiently
  - Target 1:  
In 2015 our digital repository will be certified according to international standards

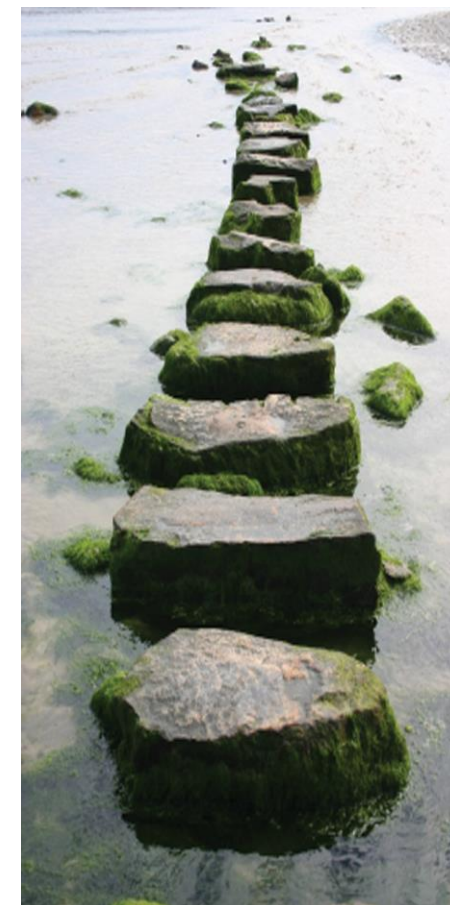






# DANS Roadmap

- 2011: DSA seal  
ISO test audit
- 2012: work on test results
- 2013: renewal DSA seal
- 2014: extended certification  
nestorSeal
- 2015: formal certification  
ISO standard 16363



- yearly risk assessments  
(Drambora)



# Quarterly monitoring system



- On the basis of written reports, using a traffic light system (per year for our annual report)



## Certification in practice: broad scope

- Broad range of topics: organisational, staffing, financial and legal aspects, archival processes, IT-infrastructure, risk management, etc.
- Properly describing policies, processes, etc.
- Development of missing policies, processes, IT- and infrastructural elements, etc.





## **Certification in practice: organisational aspects**

- Responsibility for achieving the target on management level
- Cluster Certification and Data Contracts: planning, discussing, monitoring and partly executing the work
- Many colleagues within DANS with specific expertise temporarily involved in the actual work







## Certification in practice: the effort involved

- Very much depending on your 'level of entry'

### **DSA**

- If you meet all 16 guidelines at the required level  
-> 2 weeks for the self assessment, but:

The effort will rise, if you still need to do real work in order to comply with the guidelines

The effort will rise when you climb the certification stairs to an extended and formal certification level





## DANS DSA renewal (goal 2013)

- DSA has a two year life cycle: you do not certify for life, you have to pass the test regularly
- DANS: 2011 -> 2013
- Back to the first DSA self assessment
- Revisiting the descriptions based on:
  - the revised guidelines
  - the comments and recommendations in the review
  - the present situation of our institute





## DANS DSA renewal

Around 250 hours of work:



policies	26 hours
technical development	106 hours
writing of the self-assessment	98 hours
Projectmanagement	16 hours



## Extended certification: nestorSeal (goal 2014)

- Extended self assessment based on the 34 criteria of DIN 31644
- Procedures defined by the German NESTOR group
- End result = nestorSeal
- Review of self assessment by two NESTOR reviewers







## Extended certification: nestorSeal

- The criteria build on the DSA guidelines
- Requires a big effort
- 1000 hours planned
- Around half of all DANS colleagues involved in some way at some point





## Certification in practice: lessons learnt

- Commitment from the top is crucial
- Broad support within the organisation is needed
- Use the framework:  
do not aim too high at once





## Why do we do this at DANS?

Certification as a means to build trust in our repository with our (clients, both depositors and users of data, with our partner organisations and with research funders)

Certification as a **big stick** to further develop and professionalize our core services and our organisation as a whole



Thank you for your attention



[www.dans.knaw.nl](http://www.dans.knaw.nl)

<http://datasealofapproval.org/en/>

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