Handout “The Life Cycle of Research Data”

What is it about?

It’s about the research data lifecycle that consists of the following phases:

- Planning
- Survey
- Processing / Analysis
- Archiving
- Access / Publication
- Subsequent use

Why is this important?

Knowing about the research data lifecycle is important because different data management tasks arise at each step, and the research data lifecycle can serve as a structuring aid during this process.

How do I implement this?

According to the phases listed above, the following steps can be helpful:

1. Creation of a data management plan
2. Documentation of the research carried out; (standardised) recording of metadata; superior filing structure for documents.
3. Standardising file naming; versioning data and documents; using collaboration platforms
4. Documenting data and long-term archiving
5. Publishing data, e.g. (a) as a supplement to the scientific article via the publisher, (b) in repositories or (c) in data journals.
6. Granting a licence for subsequent use if copyright protection exists; converting data into non-proprietary file formats; creating and using personal identifiers (e.g. ORCID-iD).