

Electronic Lab Notebooks: Implementation of RSpace at NTNU

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What is an Electronic Lab Notebook (ELN)?

- An ELN is a software tool for documenting experiments performed in a laboratory
- Observations, notes, protocols, some data
- Replaces a paper lab notebook, but with **extended functionality**



Benefits of switching to an ELN



Path to an ELN at NTNU



NTNU's "Research
Data Project"
Subproject ELN

"Superusers"
recruited to
the project

Tender and selection
of solution

Market analysis,
Piloting

Start of
implementation



2023

2024

2025

What do I like about RSpace?

- Discipline-agnostic: works well for most data in most formats
- Good user support and training/documentation
- 21CFR11-compliant
- Many integrations
- Inventory function
- Educational server – i.e. for teaching purposes – included (free and unlimited no. of seats)
- Open source

Where are we today?

- Very early phase of the rollout (will likely run into 2026)
- So far, only a few labs (connected with “superusers”) have been introduced to RSpace
- Start small – build experience to understand:
 - What are the barriers to uptake?
 - What is needed in terms of training, guidance and support?
 - Collaboration in RSpace – what group set-ups work best?
- Mixed reaction so far:
 - Some “early adopters”
 - Many log-on once or twice but never again
 - Others have received information but not (yet?) decided to use it

Challenges and Concerns

How long is the contract with RSpace? What happens if NTNU decides to stop using RSpace or it ceases to exist?

How much will it cost us?

I don't have the time to learn how to use RSpace

Who can see my data/lab notebook entries? Could it be used as a tool for my supervisor to spy on me?

What has worked well?

- Still early days, but...
- Superusers
- Workshops (hands-on with relevant use case)
- (Hoping that) early adopters will become “ELN champions” at NTNU and convince others to give it a try

Thank you for your attention!

