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How to find and evaluate good research software - a field report

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As part of the Incubator Initiative, the Helmholtz Association has promoted the field of research software engineering. Among other activities, the Helmholtz Research Software Directory (RSD) was developed and the Helmholtz Software Award was launched.

But these great ideas have raised questions:

• How exactly do you find the great software?

• How do you encourage the development teams to publish it and describe it in such a way that not only insiders understand what it's all about?

• How can international reviewers be recruited and how can they evaluate non-specialist software applications?

• How do you compare and evaluate software that differs greatly not only in terms of technical aspects, but also in terms of maturity, user community and target group?

The Helmholtz RSD has developed into a successful model and is increasingly bringing added value to software developers and scientists with hundreds of solutions and often thousands of "harvested"references to those. And the Helmholtz Software Award 2023 was presented in three categories and the applications for the second call for proposals 2024 have already been received and are being reviewed. At the same time, the topic of evaluating research results, including data and software, has recently become increasingly important. Here too, the evaluation of research software is playing an increasingly important role.

In this presentation, the experiences and results of these processes will be presented in detail. The topics mentioned and still in flux are of growing importance for universities, research institutions and also the NFDI consortia! These experiences in this still relatively new field are therefore valuable information and a basis for discussions in the RSE community!

I want to participate in the youngRSE prize

no

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