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SciCat - Metadata management for DESYs photon science experiments

The goal is clear: DESY photon scientists require a robust tool to manage metadata throughout the entire data lifecycle—from acquisition to publication and long-term archiving. SciCat, a scientific catalog, was chosen to fulfill this need.

During the initial phase, we at DESY could make crucial deployment and user interaction experiences which was presented at the last annual meeting. Over the past year, DESY could then proceed focusing on the actual benefit of SciCat to the users: being able to offer unique and persistent digital object identifiers (DOIs) of DESY data. The challenge was to find the best operational solution for DESY out of the many possible ways, purposes and scopes.

The scope we deal with concerns users at PETRA and FLASH beamline experiments who require a catalogue that provides a handle on datasets that are still under the embargo period and its (meta) data access is - at that stage - not yet public.

This contribution highlights efforts made in the last year towards this DOI minting service. A large part went and still goes into development work, before we could proceed. We now work towards a concrete setup of that service at DESY where automated elements and typical manual steps like data curation have their role in that service. The service, its prototype version, the current status and what we aim for in production will be presented in our roadmap.

While working on the implementation of this service for DESY, every SciCat user, enduser or site-admin, within DAPHNE4NFDI or worldwide will also benefit from an extended and updated documentation of SciCat capabilities –where a DAPHNE4NFDI member has taken the lead on. A preview of the updated documentation will be given too.

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