

# Research Data at National Scale

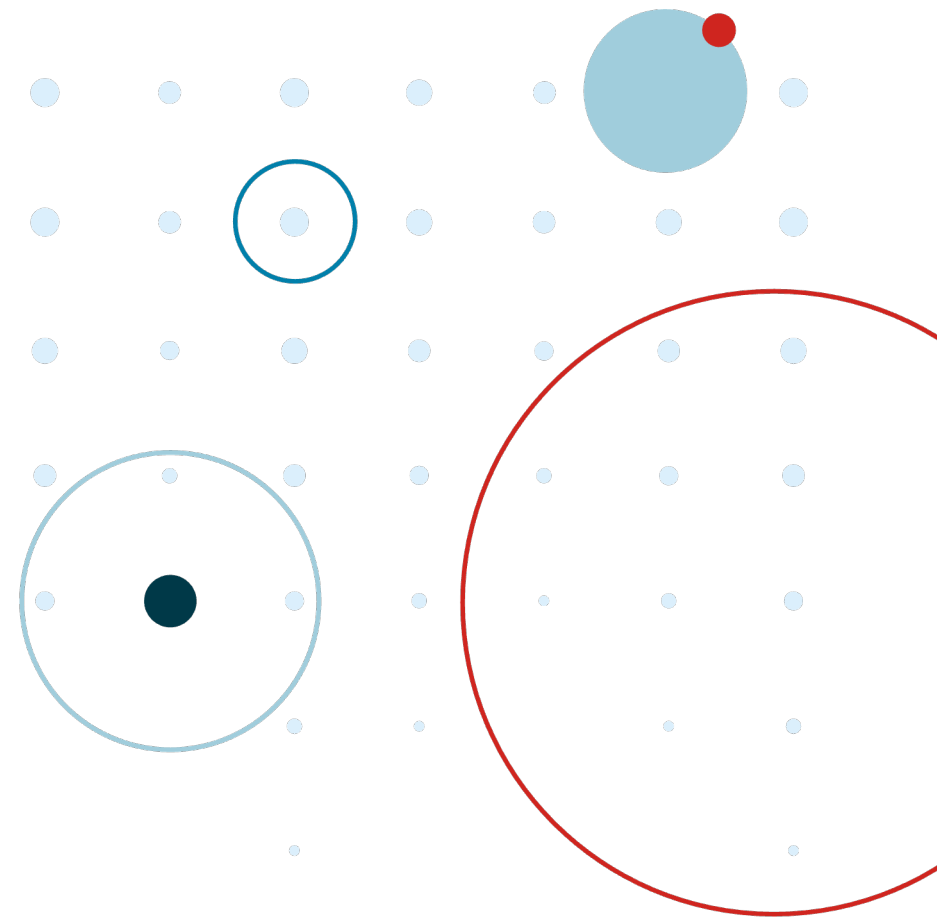
Dutch Repository Services in an Evolving  
Infrastructural Landscape

Jetze Touber | Data Station Manager Humanities

May 21st, 2026

**DANS**

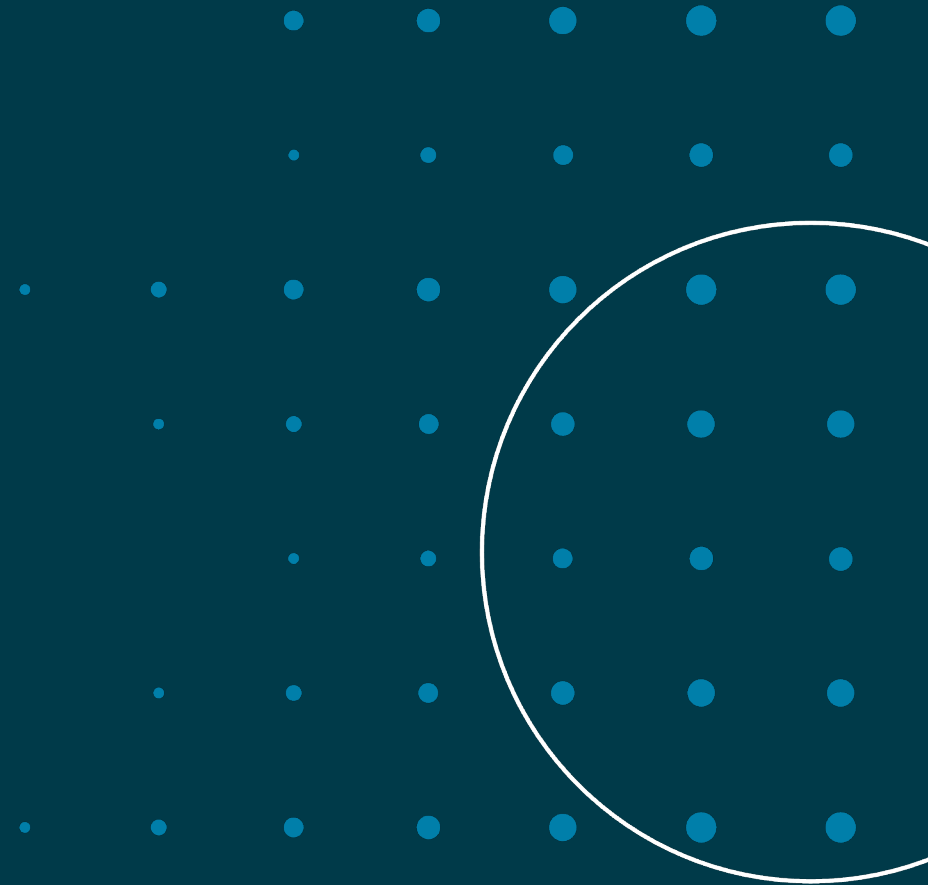
National centre of expertise and repository for research data | An institute of the KNAW and NWO



# This presentation:

1. Introducing DANS
2. Data Archiving and Networked Services
3. Focus on FAIR
4. From Data to Knowledge

# Introducing DANS



# 1. Introducing DANS

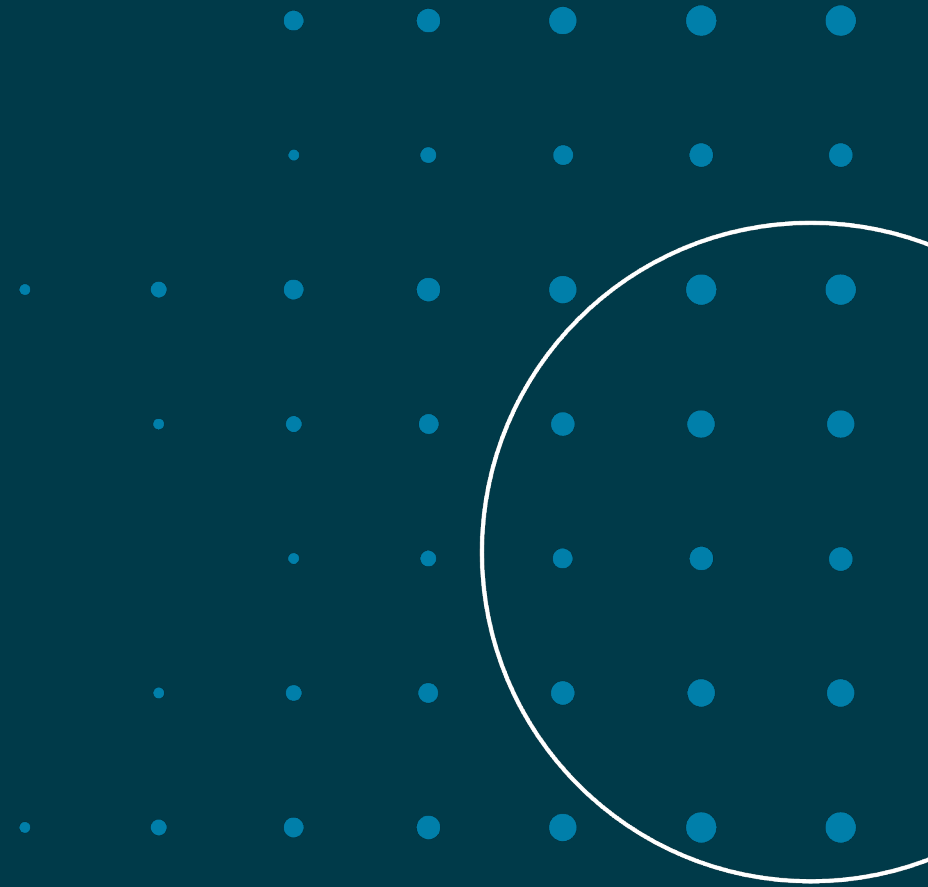
DANS in overview:

- Dutch repository and centre of expertise for Research Data
  - provides advice
  - offers training
  - partners in projects
  - archives and publishes research data
- Institute of the Royal Academy of Sciences (KNAW), since 2005
- 300.000 datasets
- 60 employees



# Looking back:

## Data Archiving and Networked Services



## 2. Data Archiving and Networked Services

### Predecessors

Steinmetz archive (1964):

Social scientists collecting  
survey results

Electronic Depot of the  
Netherlands' Archaeology (2004)

Archaeological companies  
obliged to deposit  
excavation results



EASY

Dutch historical data archive (1983):

'Alfa-informatics' doing niche  
research on historical data

*Data Archiving and Networked Services*

**DANS**

## 2. Data Archiving and Networked Services

### EASY

- One all-purpose self-archiving repository
- In-house developed, on Fedora platform

### Very succesful

- Free of charge! (up to 50 GB)
- Data curation (metadata, terms, file formats)
- CoreTrustSeal

## 2. Data Archiving and Networked Services

### EASY

- One all-purpose self-archiving repository
- In-house developed, on Fedora platform

### Unsustainable

- Fast deteriorating software
- Volumes affected performance

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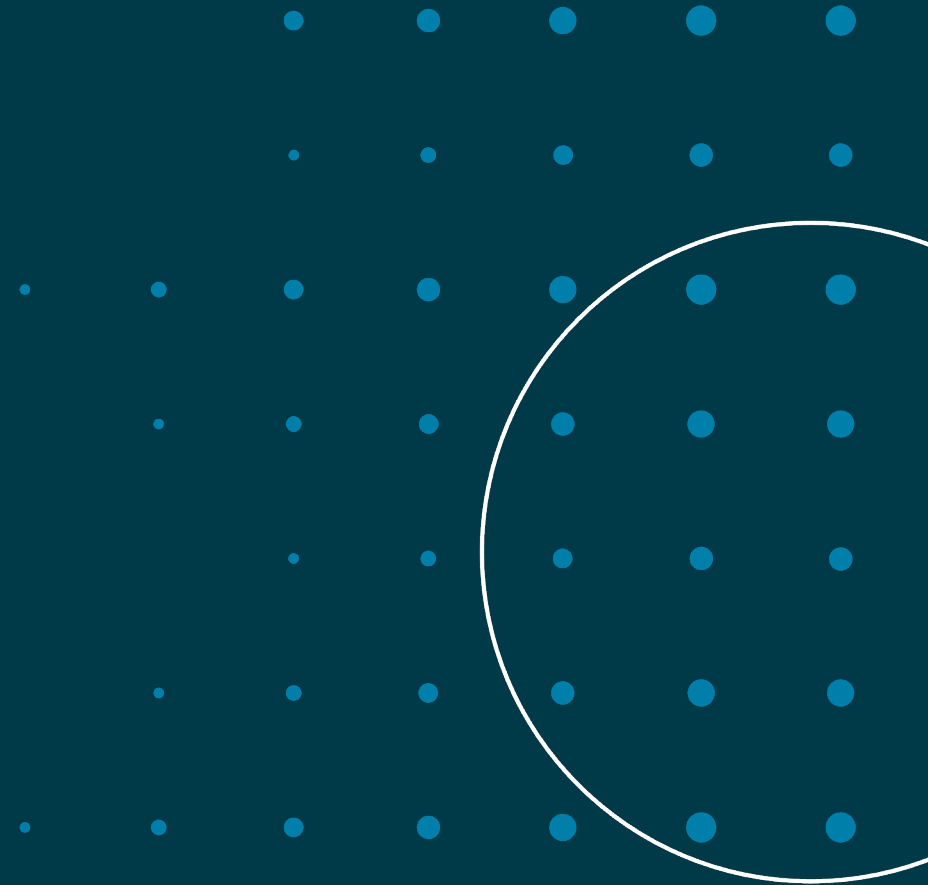
### Unsustainable

- Fast deteriorating software
- Volumes affected performance

- 2010s:  
'Replication crisis'
- 2016:  
**FAIR principles** for  
Research Data Management

# Pivotal period:

## Focus on FAIR



## 3. Focus on FAIR

Strategy period 2020-2025

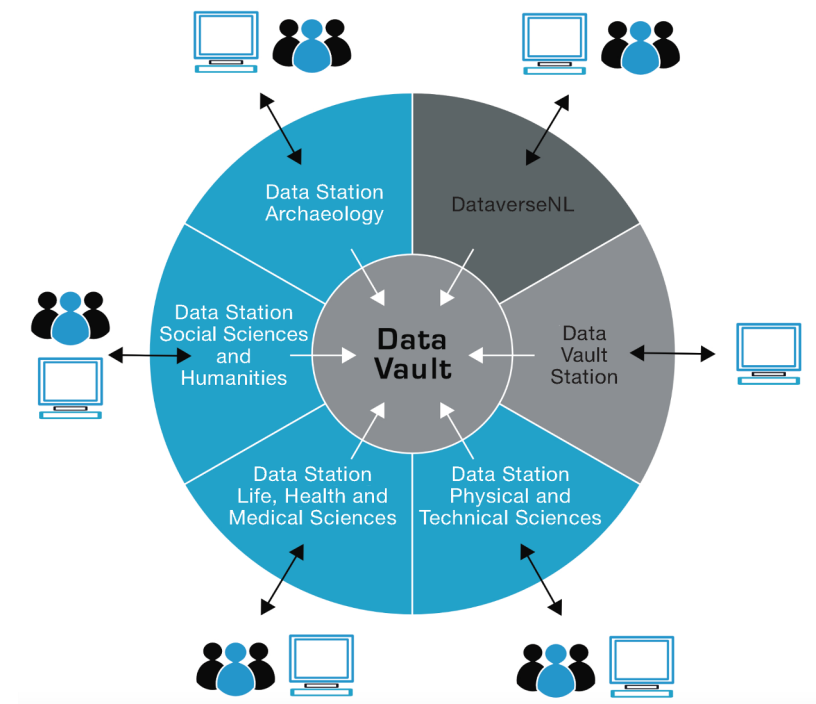
- Domain-specific services for **FAIR** data
- Expertise for training and support on **FAIR**
- European projects to develop **FAIR** implementation



# 3. Focus on FAIR

## Repository services

- From 1 generic repository to 4 domain-specific Data Stations
- Alternative: [DataverseNL](#) for institutes
- All repositories based on Dataverse software




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## Other features Data Stations

- Data curation & community management

Example Dataset Draft In Review Unpublished 

 May 20, 2026

Touber (DANS), Jetze, 2026, "Example Dataset", <https://doi.org/10.80727/SSS/JMHT2I>, DANS Data Station Social Sciences and Humanities (demo), DRAFT VERSION

Example of a DRAFT DATASET placed IN REVIEW

# 3. Focus on FAIR

## Repository services

- From 1 generic repository to 4 domain-specific Data Stations
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## Other features Data Stations

- Data curation & community management
- Integrated in RDM landscape

## Oorlogsbronnen.nl ('Sources of the War')

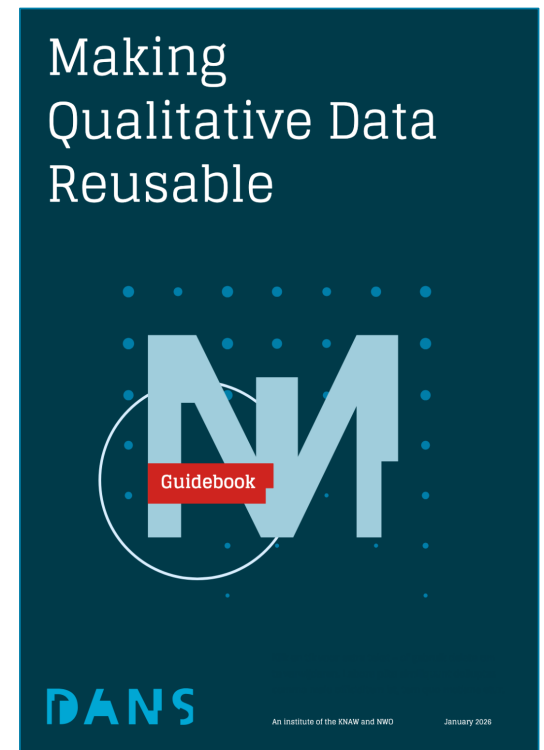
The image shows two overlapping screenshots. The top one is from Oorlogsbronnen.nl, displaying search results for 'Trauma & Resilience concentratiekamp'. The bottom one is from the CESSDA Data Catalogue, showing a detailed record for 'Trauma & Resilience: 30Interview1G1'. Red boxes and arrows highlight specific elements: the search result title, the 'ORGANISATIE DANS' field, the 'Study number / PID' field with its DOI and dataset ID, and the 'Data access' field.

CESSDA Data Catalogue

## 3. Focus on FAIR

### Expertise

- CoreTrustSeal
- FAIR Assessment
- FAIR Implementation Profiles
- PID policy
- Qualitative data
- Hard-to-share data
- Synthetic data
- Oral History data
- ...



# 3. Focus on FAIR

Project partner

e.g.

- FAIRsFAIR:  
Practical solutions for the use of FAIR principles throughout the data life cycle
- FAIR Impact:  
Implementation of FAIR-enabling practices, tools and services
- Fidelis:  
Network of trusted repositories

Important:

- Keep knowledge up-to-date
- Expand network
- Secure funding to pay for staff



## 3. Focus on FAIR

### Achievements

- Valued repositories
- Connected with infrastructure & communities
- Well-regarded project partner
- Expertise and services reinforce one another

### Challenges

- 'in-house' Data Stations vs. institutional DataverseNL
- Balance genericity and specificity
- New functionalities require international consensus

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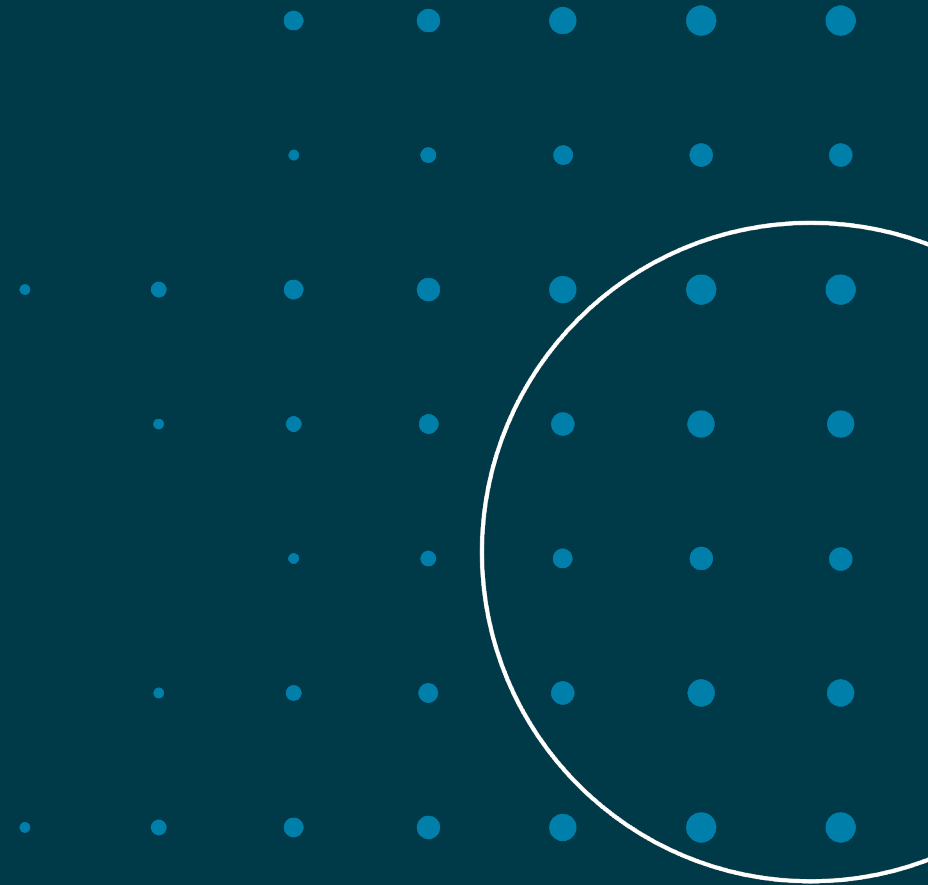
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## Evolving landscape

- Local RDM matured
  - Data volumes growing & aging
  - Institutional data stewards
- Integrations needed
  - Europe (ERICs, EOSC)
  - Other partners in NL
- Artificial Intelligence
  - Data curation with AI
  - Data discovery with AI

# Strategic outlook:

## From Data to Knowledge



# 4. From Data to Knowledge

Strategy period 2026-2028



## 1. Centre of Expertise

- Partnering in innovative projects (EU, NL)
- Training local data professionals

## 2. Trustworthy & innovative repository services

- Solutions for enrichments and integrations
- Grow DataverseNL for institutional repositories

## 3. Ambassador for FAIR data

- Promoting policies for FAIR data (incl. AI)
- DANS as testing ground

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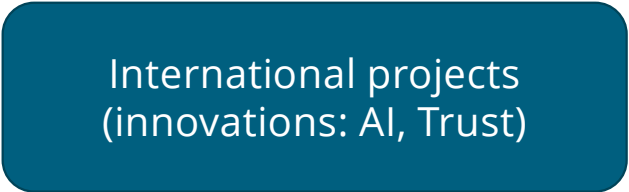
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# 4. From Data to Knowledge

DANS partners in ...



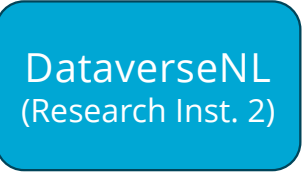
TRL 1-3

DANS applies in ...



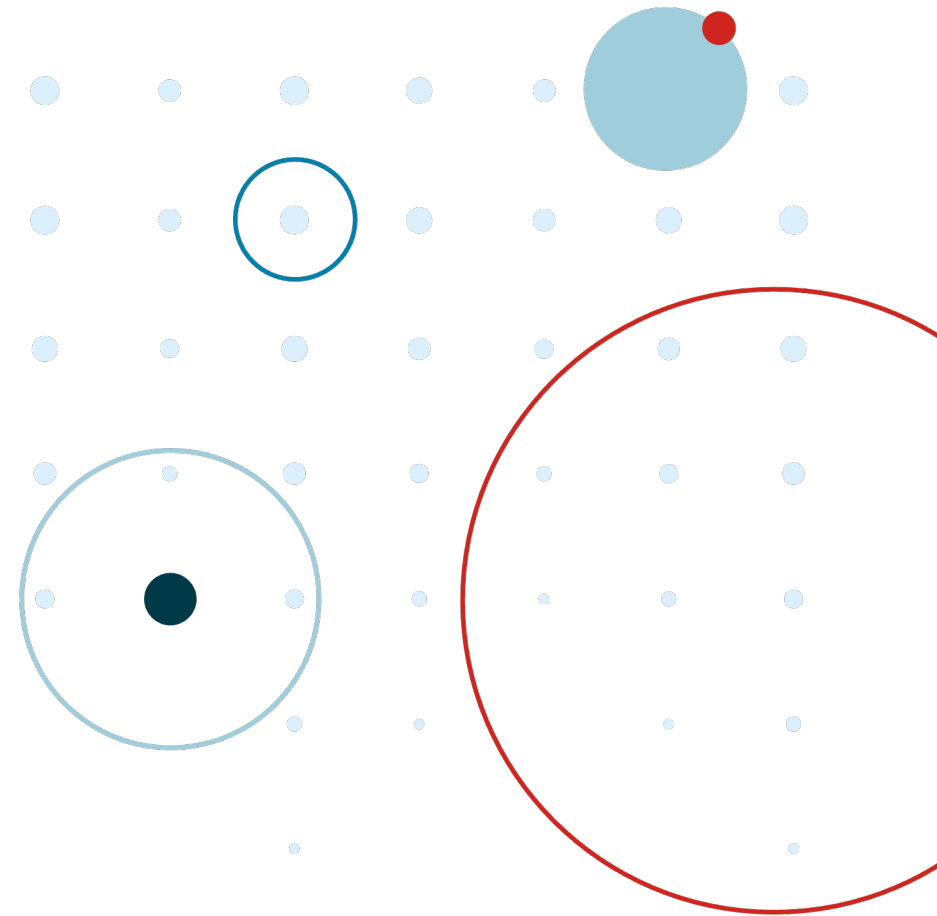
TRL 4-6

DANS trains ...



TRL 7-9

# Thank you for your attention



**DANS**

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National centre of expertise and repository for research data | An institute of the KNAW and NWO

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