Introduction

Welcome to the second ELN Newsletter. The past 6 months have been quite productive for me and the people involved with ELN. I enjoyed every bit of it and I foresee many more good output ahead. I hope to have a significant cooperation with you in the coming months.

If you have any question, doubts, request don't hesitate to contact me via email/phone or just dropping by my office.

Availability:

Last month I spent few hours in one of the LACDR/DDS Department. While there, ELN users could easily show me their issues with ELN, ask for clarifications and discuss their requests. The communication was easy and quick; call for improvements and hints have been registered. The outcome of the 'in loco' support for me and the team was very positive. I am available to come around and sit in your area for half/full day or just few hours. I can give support, answers questions, give suggestions and get your requirements. Pick a suitable day where most of your colleagues and PIs are in the office then let's arrange an ‘ELN support day’.

Best regards
Leyla Dellabiancia
Reproducibility problem

Can you currently retrieve an experiment performed years ago? After you found your paper Notebook, can you actually remember what you did? Can you recall all the conditions? Can you even decipher your own handwriting – or the one of your colleague -? Do you have to perform the same experiments again and again? After years, how could you be sure that you are not dealing with random information? Some answers would be:

- I don’t remember where the raw data I used for this experiment are located
- I am not sure after few years if these are the data I used in my experiment
- I want to replicate an experiment from a colleague and I need extra information but he left the Faculty
- My colleague went on holiday so I cannot carry on my job as he holds the data and all the information

ELN can solve all of these issues:

- Data are digital so no handwritten problems neither issues in retrieving the old experimental data and information
- Data are available all the time despite your colleague being away
- Using link, hyperlinks etc. can help to recall old information
- Results of an experiment can be uploaded easily
- Parametric Searches enhances the retrieval of old data, results, information etc.

Current Status

General:

Currently there are 248 active users in the system.
The ELN ‘learning and usage’ curve is growing at different pace but in some departments ELN is used regularly to track experimental data.

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**Big Data Location:**

The volume of data in some departments has grown exponentially over the past years. ‘Which data needs to be stored for future use or compliance?’ This is still an open question which has to be addressed because it is an important condition for future funding. In 2019, big data and more matters regarding research datamanagement will be adressed throughout the Faculty. This should provide researchers with guidelines about which raw and processed datasets should be archived and how they should be stored.

For the time being you can use the ELN link or hyperlink to track the ‘big raw/processed data’ location. ‘Link to Supplementary Data’ allows to upload processed data too.
Students & ELN:

The Faculty is aware of the need, among some teams, to allow Students to access and use ELN. Concerns about IP protection, security, policies, number of licenses, training, supervision and administration have to be solved and managed.

There are many open points that will be addressed; currently we are piloting access and usage of ELN among the students in LIC where PhDs are responsible for their Students’ training, usage and the information/data uploaded and shared.

ELN Training

In 2018, 121 people attended the training courses.
There is no limit to the number of training to follow therefore, if you feel that you need some ‘refresh’, just register for another session.

>> Check the upcoming schedule and how to register.

**What's new?**

The past 6 months have been quite productive. See below the list of improvements and requests for changes 'in progress'.

**Customization available for everyone**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>To Be Review/Approve workflow</strong></td>
<td>ELN offers an out-of-the-box workflow called E-Signature: an experiment is signed by the Creator, the supervisor approves/rejects the experiment itself. When approved, the experiment becomes read-only; if rejected the experiment starts a new cycle of revision, signature, approve/reject phases.</td>
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<td>A team in LACDR had the need to make this process lighter and quicker: the experiment can be reviewed and approved by anyone in the team.</td>
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<td>Following their input and testing activities, the new workflow has now been made available to all the ELN users.</td>
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<td><strong>Test Folder availability</strong></td>
<td>Due to policies within the Faculty, ELN is configured to disallow the delete of Notebooks and Experiments in the users' profile. Some users have the need though to have a tidy ELN personal area. After successful tests, the ability to have a 'Test Folder' has now been made available.</td>
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<td>The 'Test Folder' allows ONLY to organize your personal area so Notebooks and Experiments cannot be deleted too.</td>
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<td><strong>PI Home Page</strong></td>
<td>PIs have the need to have a different overview and information about the team and the SOP, Projects etc. within the team. The Home Page for PI is currently available with a different overview on SOPs. It can be customized.</td>
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**All the READMEs are available in your ‘Home Page’ inside the ‘General Announcement’ box**

**Work in progress**
### Success Stories

Some colleagues wanted to share their experience for this Newsletter:

“The ELN provides an environment in which I can combine the setup of my experiment, the raw data (and links if the files are to big) and the analysis all in one place. As basically all data are already digital (gel files, ELISA, microscopy, qPCR, etc.), this is more convenient then having a paper journal and digital files to reference to. It bundles an experiment from start to finish in one place and makes it easy to find, also for others." (IBL/ASH user)

"Using ELN is like to train a new habit, at beginning it looks so difficult and troubled, but when you used to it, it makes everything easier not only for now but also in future. It is not difficult to learn, however it takes a lot of writing SOPs and insert data table, as long as I update frequently, it will not take so much time any more. And all data and SOPs will never get lost. I like ELN more and more." (LACDR/DDS/R.Liu)
Contact

Email to eln-bioscience@science.leidenuniv.nl

Events

See Training Schedule

Curious?

Several ELN tutorials can be found on the Faculty’s YouTube channel. The videos cover some of the basic ELN functionalities:

A Web User Guide is also available. Here you can find general information, examples, basic and advance functionalities etc.

Links

- Nationaal plan Open Science
- Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science
- NWO
- Regeling Datamanagement Universiteit Leiden
- University Library: Datamanagement
- FAIR principles
- List of metadata standards
- (University Library) Example list selection data to archive
- (University Library) Leiden Research Data Information Sheets
- (University Library) Template Data Management Plan
- PerkinElmer ELN

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