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eLabFTW: Recent Updates & Introduction for Newcomers

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CC BY (logos and background excluded)

Tool support

Support from the RDM team at TU Graz (since 2023)

- Mail support for user questions about eLabFTW
- Support material (manuals, support pages)
- Workshops/webinars (content)
- Coordination with uniIT (responsible for infrastructure and application)

Software versions: 5.6.12 (2026-08-31) - 6.0.9 (2026-10-21) – 6.0.10 (2026-10-19)

- Overview: https://github.com/elabftw/elabftw/releases
- Updated manuals and information page: https://elabftw.uni-graz.at/support/manuals
- Demo version: https://demo.elabftw.net

Updates since summertime - Overview

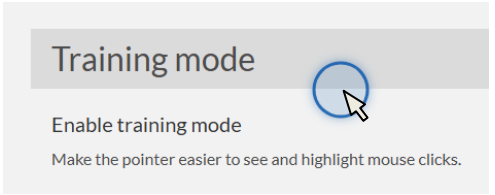


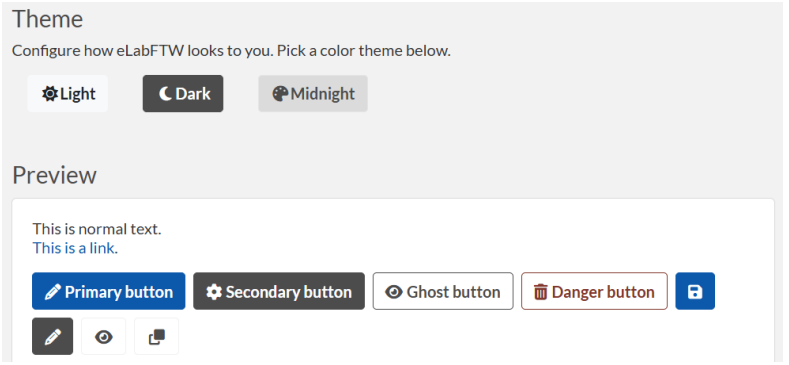
Versions 5.6.x and 6.0.x have been introduced

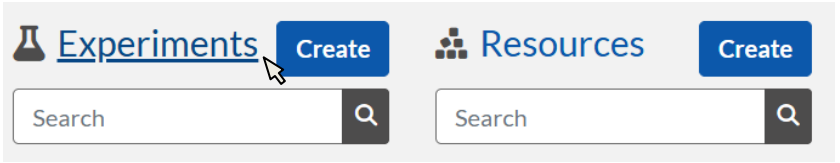
- User experience: modernized, faster, more responsive, accessibility standards
- Template & rights management, traceability through entity changelog
- Spreadsheet editor warning for unsaved changes

Recent Updates from versions 5.6.x and 6.0.x

1. Deployment changes
(ports, volumes, permissions, directories, configuration)
2. Training mode (settings – general)
3. Personalized themes (settings – appearance)
4. Blue colour scheme and link style (since 5.6)
5. Infinite scrolling & quick-move (since 5.6)
6. Live search (since 5.6)
7. Extended column management (since 5.6)
(change column order/size, selection changes)
8. Permission management simplified (since 5.6)
9. Cross-team transfer (since 5.6)

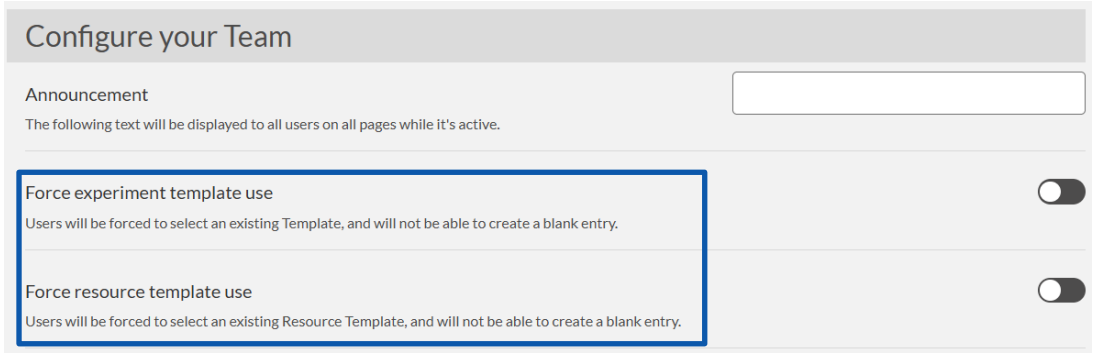


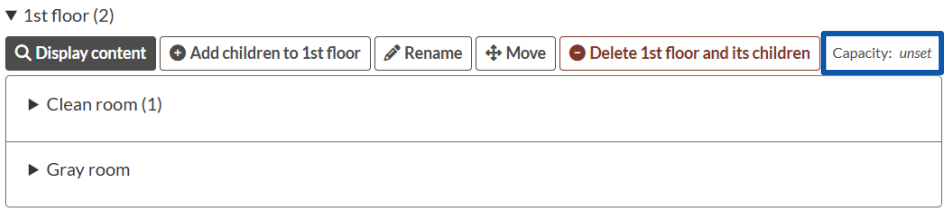


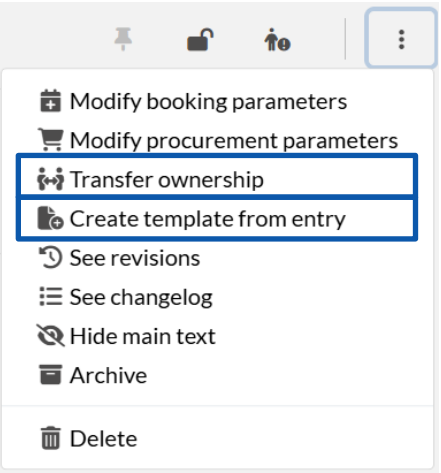


Recent Updates from versions 5.6.x and 6.0.x

10. Extended traceability (since 5.6) changelog includes file upload, restored content
11. Sheduler reorganized interface (since 5.6)
12. Booking costs (since 5.6)
13. Enforce template use (for admins)
14. Create template from entries (since 5.6)
15. Transfer ownership
16. ROR (since 5.6)
17. Inventory capacity limit
18. Group option for custom fields and allow multiple values







Introduction to electronic laboratory notebooks (ELN)

ELNs can support transparent, collaborative and sustainable RDM
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0355558

Beyond simple record keeping towards transparency, reproducibility, and integrity
https://doi.org/10.1039/d3dd00032j

Best practices for data & documentation management (https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1012170)

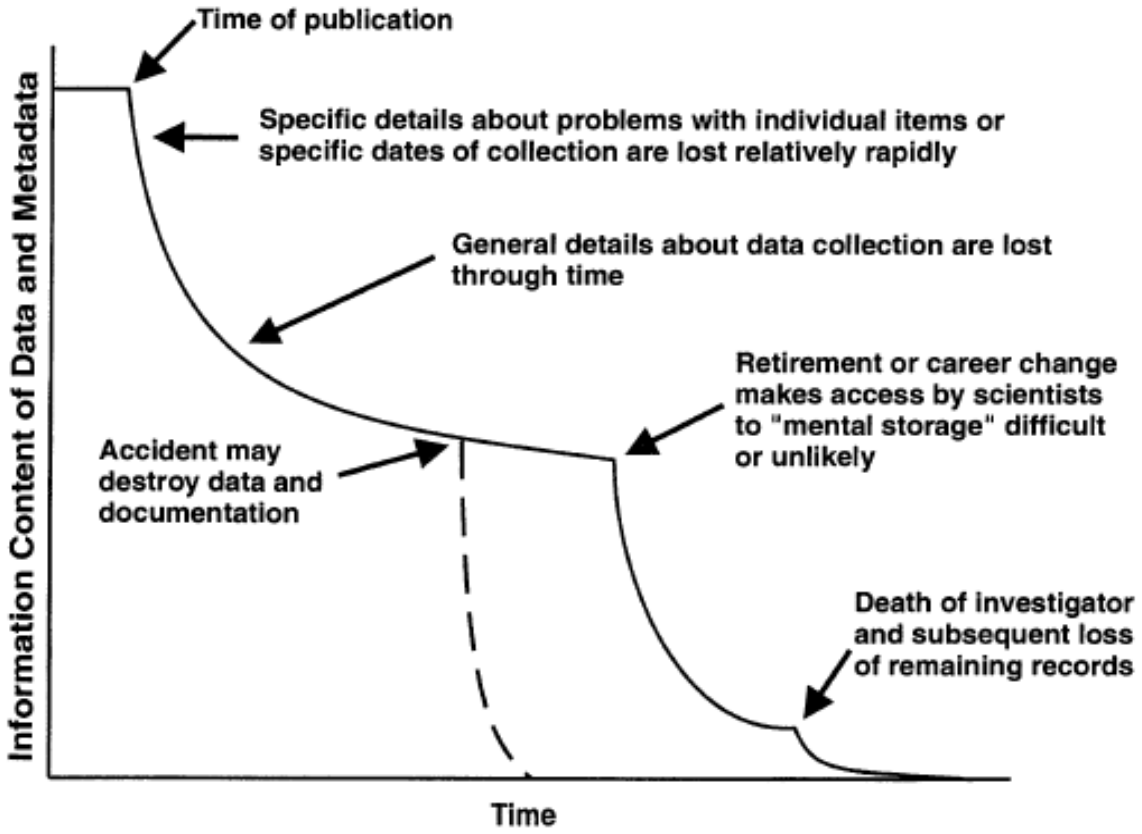
Active research is required to be documented, and technology enables storing, recording, annotation, sharing, processing of information
https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.7628.1



CCO by Mohamed Hassan, pxhere.com

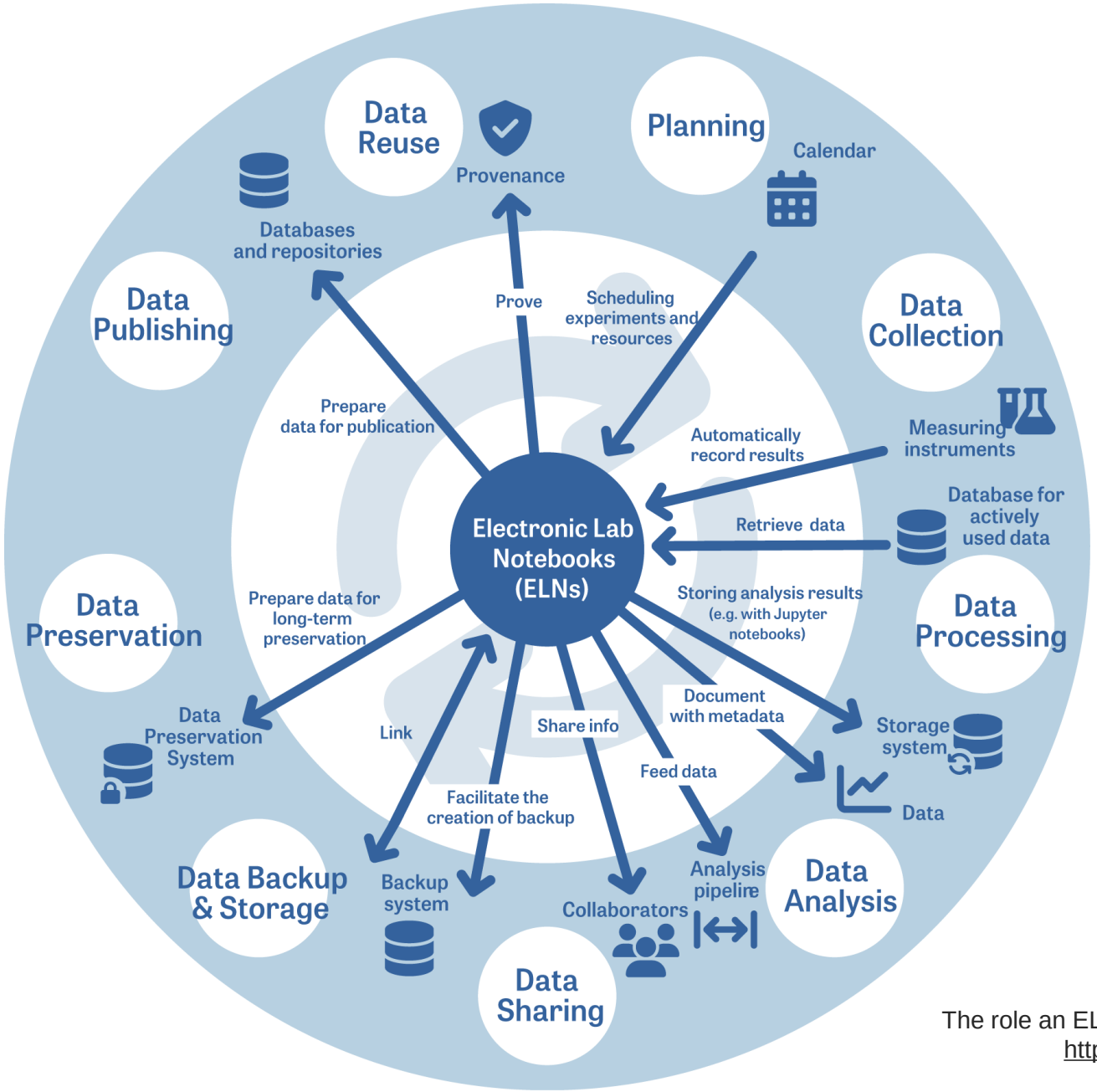
Why Notebooks? Documentation is important!

- Most of the data is **useless without a description**
- Over time, information is forgotten - documentation enables **long-term understanding of** data
  → no archiving without metadata
- **Overview of** versions and different formats **is lost**
- Documentation is the essential element of good data management and **facilitates data exchange**
- Structured metadata enable **machine processing** of data (search, automation)
- Initial investment for **future work made easier**



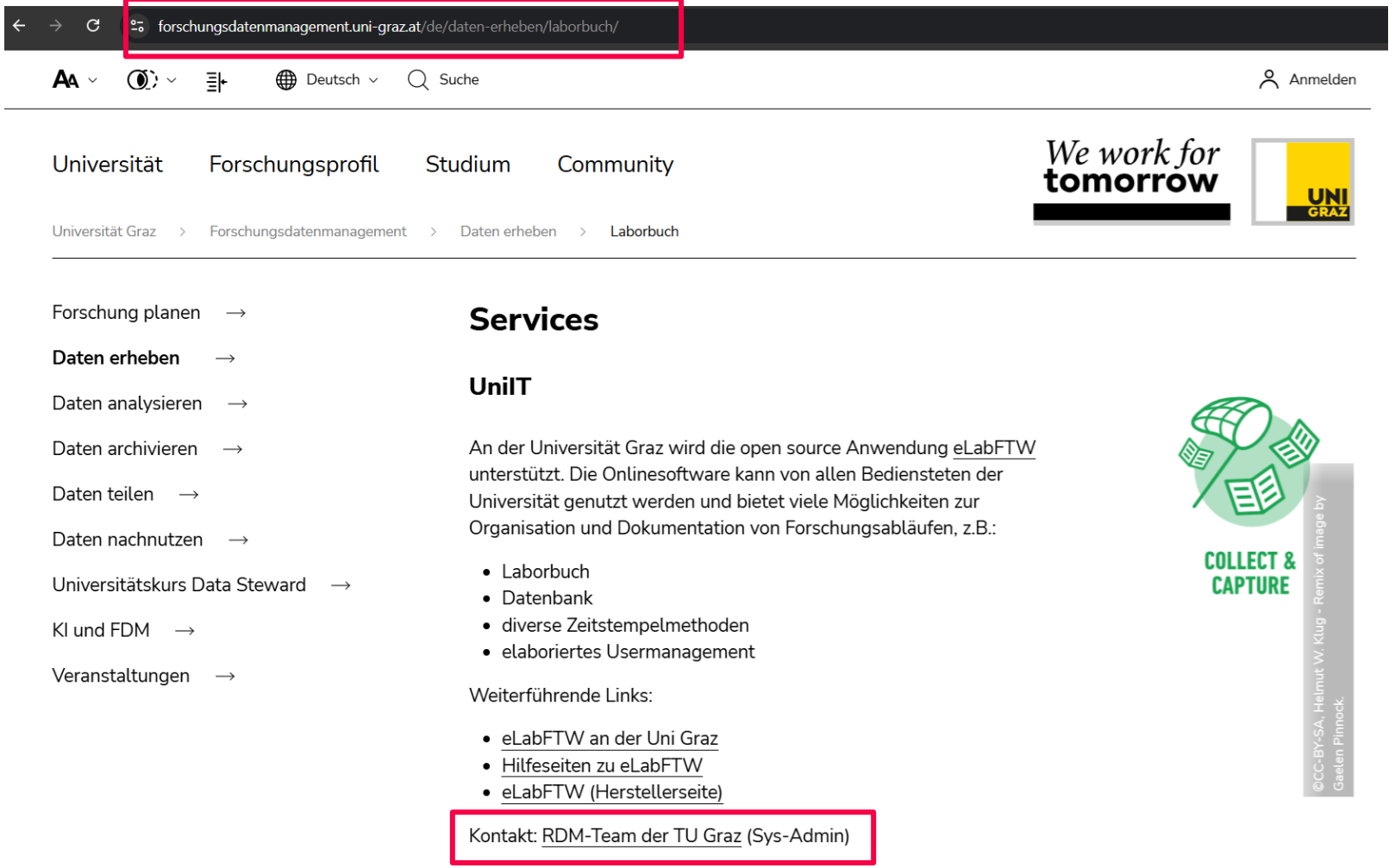
MICHENER, William K., et al. Nongeospatial metadata for the ecological sciences. Ecological Applications, 1997, 7. Jg., Nr. 1, S. 330-342.

Source: TU9 German Universities of Technology, http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2660187



CC BY Vandendorpe J et al. (2024)
The role an ELN can play in the research data lifecycle.
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1012170

eLabFTW Registration



1. URL:

forschungsdatemanagement.uni-graz.at

2. Path: Collecting Data

3. Topics:

Electronic laboratory notebooks

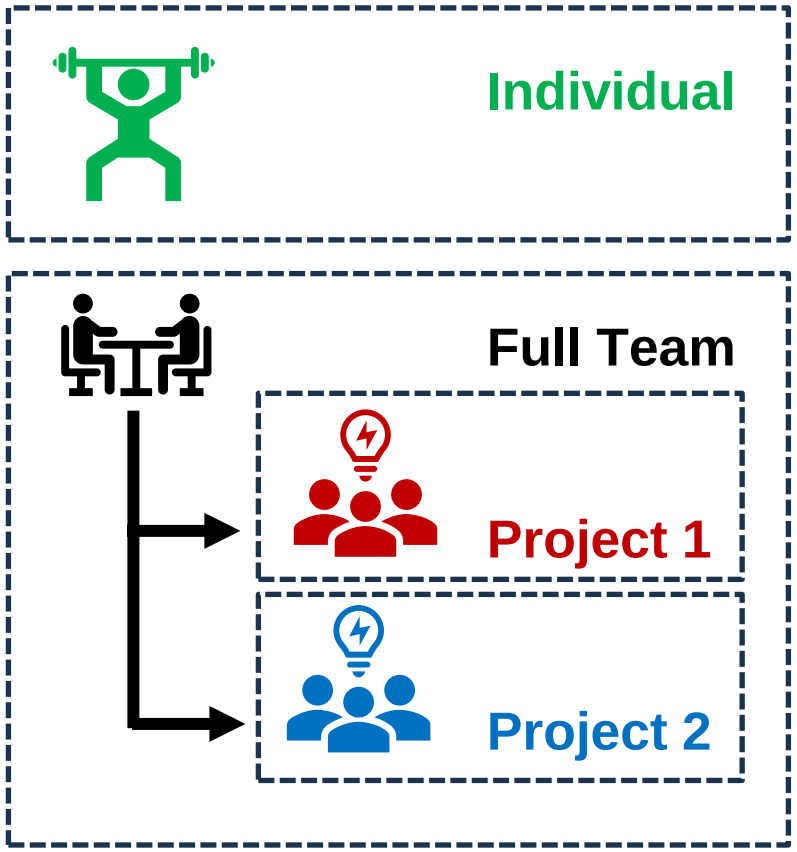
4. contact:

Mail to RDM-Team

- Stating new team name
- admin
- teammates

Source:
https://forschungsdatenmanagement.uni-graz.at

eLabFTW Structure and New Team



Notes

Device Management

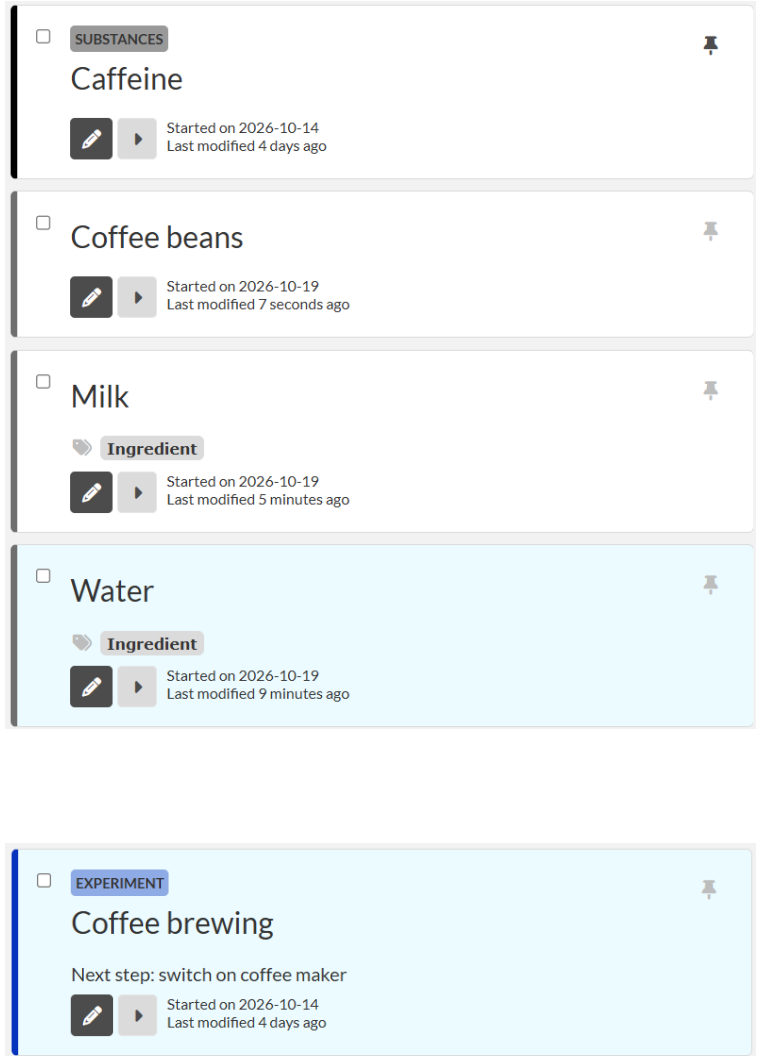
Experiments & Resources

eLabFTW Use Case

(Collaborative) Documentation of experiment series

- Experiment template
  - linked to resources
  - modifications for repetitions with modifications





eLabFTW Links

Further reading:

- https://forschungsdatenmanagement.uni-graz.at/en/collecting-data/electronic-laboratory-notebook (bottom literature list)
- https://doc.elabftw.net/docs (Deltablot docs/guides)

Templates:

- https://github.com/sfb1638/elabftw-templates/
- https://github.com/elabftw/elabftw/discussions/7151
- https://eln.community (Deltablot library)

LIBRARY
AND ARCHIVES
TU GRAZ

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