

IASSIST 2005, Edinburgh

DDI Comparative Data Working Group

Introduction and status

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Formation of the group

- Established fall 2003
- Currently 12 members, mostly archives
- One of four working groups beside Structural Reform Group

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Babylon and beyond

- Almost everybody is using terms slightly different
- Initial intention of working group proposals did not prove feasible
 - > iterative process now
- Connections to an overall model was missing
- Common terminology and concept needed!

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Examples of „comparative“

- Just three out of many examples:
 - Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) > addendum to major surveys
 - European Social Survey > TQM at its best
 - Eurobarometer Trend File > after the fact integration, no regular waves
- Various lists being compiled of comparative studies in the broadest sense
 - > living examples for mark-up needs

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Orientation of stakeholders

- Simple mark-up of existing codebooks
- Combination of XML-instances on a higher level (e.g. XInclude)
- Information gathering and exchange via database management systems

The life-cycle model

- Small step, GIANT leap!
- Life-cycle closer to reality of a study
- Made us give up on mere archival perspective
- Life-cycle covers not only phases of the „birth“ and development of data but also the different stakeholders
- Link to projects (e.g. MetaDater) and SRG

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The model (figure)

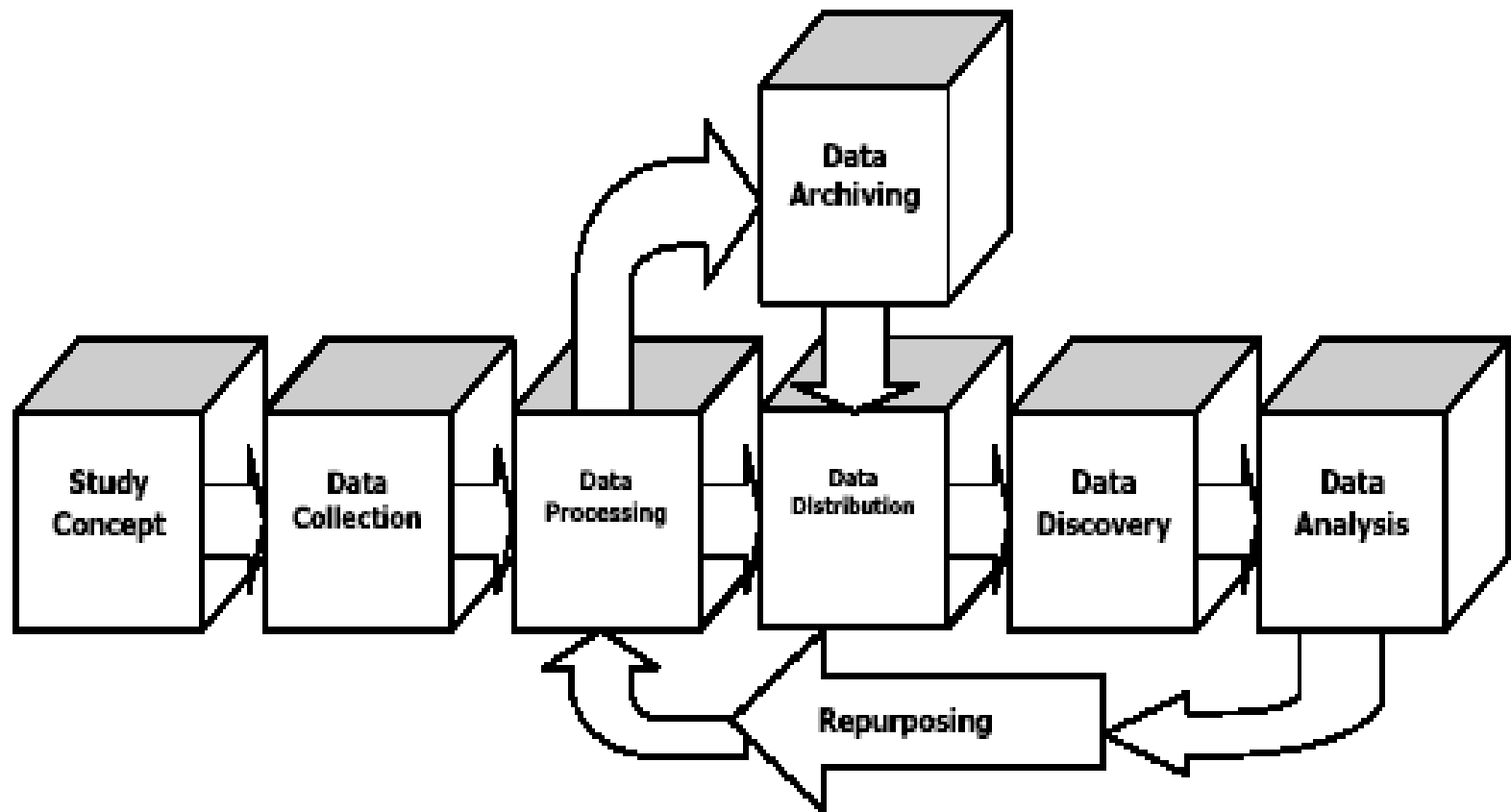


Figure: Combined Life Cycle Model

The core of comparison

- Core of comparative research: the variable
 - “Rest” of the study: treated as context
- [But then, what is a study?]**
- Questions concerning variables:
 - construction
 - translation
 - links to external references [...]

Goals

- Deadline September 1st for proposal
- Set priorities for proposal!
- Idea of workshop on marking-up of major study
 - distinguish machine-actionable <> human-readable
 - identify missing tags and concepts
- Dwell on current projects (e.g. ISSP in DDI at ZA)