

Fitting a survey life cycle in the DDI

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Disclaimer

The research and analysis are based on data from Statistics Canada and the opinions expressed do not represent the views of Statistics Canada.

Project partnerships

- A pilot study was initiated in summer 2004
- Involving:
 - 3 RDCs: Edmonton, Calgary, Hamilton
 - General Social Survey (GSS) Programs
 - Standards Division
- GSS cycle 17 - Social Engagement confidential data file

Project outline

- Creating DDI documentation for the confidential data of GSS Cycle 17
- Assessing the information sources needed to complete this task
- Evaluating the use of DDI documentation by researchers in an RDC

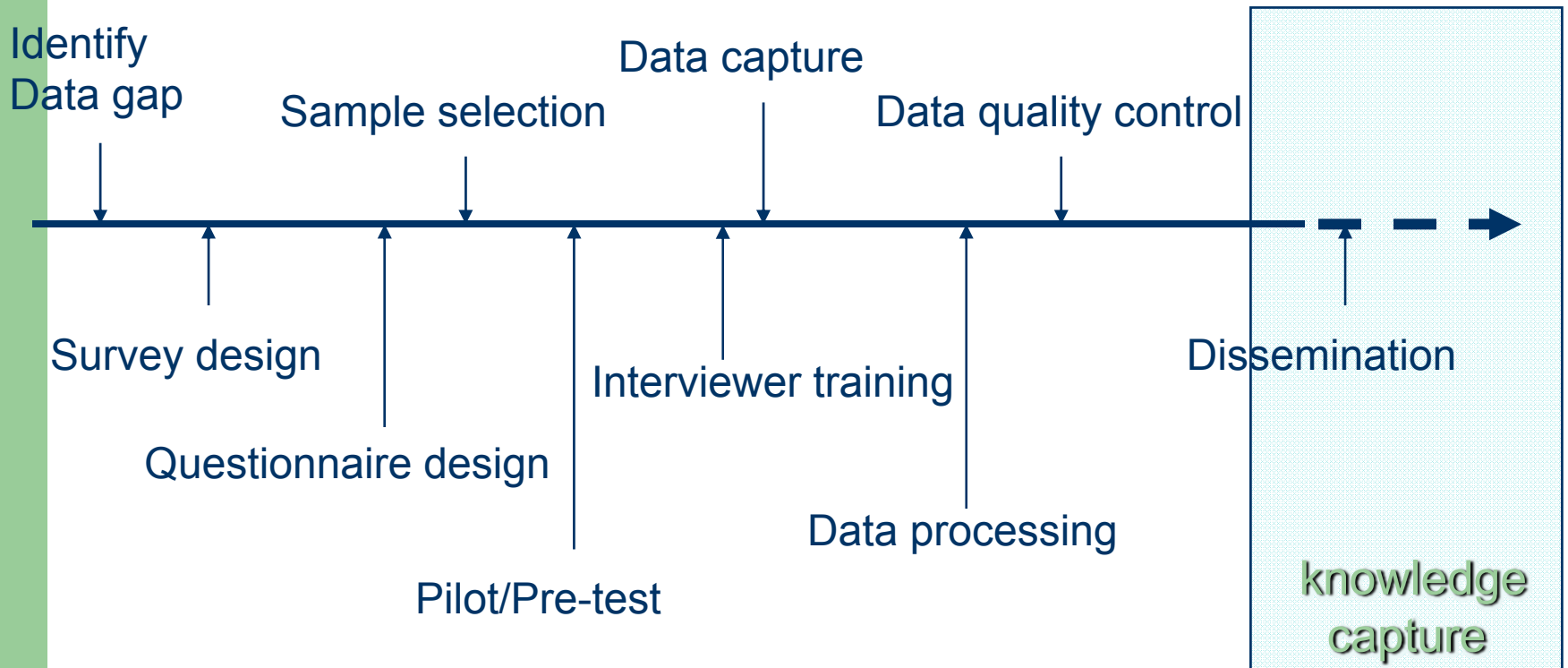
Creating DDI documentation

- We were not present at the initial survey planning, design, or the production
- Post-event information harvesting to create DDI documentation
 - Statistics Canada IMDB program
 - Public Use Microdata Documentation
 - Confidential Microdata metadata

DDI version 1&2 vs. IMDB

- modeled after the traditional 'codebook': user's guide, data dictionary, record layout.
 - Document Description
 - Study Description
 - Data Files Description
 - Variable Description
 - Other Study-related Materials
- Statistics Canada IMDB and microdata metadata
 - Survey description
 - user guide
 - Data Description
 - sources and methodology
 - Sampling and collection
 - Data accuracy
 - Variable description
 - code book and record layout
 - Other documents

GSS 17 survey process



Post-event information harvesting

- Is “artefacts hunting” enough?
- Is there a knowledge loss?
 - Current need in the RDCs for a liaison between researchers and survey divisions
- How about user feedbacks?
 - For example:
 - On data quality
 - Identify data gap

Is there a knowledge loss?

- Knowledge of interest to the research community
 - Data processing: consolidation, imputation, data suppression,
 - Data quality: respond error, weights calculation, ...
- Knowledge of interest to the survey community
 - Sample selection: stratification, hard to locate and follow sample groups,
 - Questionnaire design: Interviewer handbooks, pre-testing procedures and guidelines,
- Has this knowledge been properly preserved somewhere?

Preserved knowledge

- Should DDI documentation be created throughout the life course of a survey?
- Can DDI documentation be created throughout the life course of a survey?
 - Do we know enough now to answer the questions?

Following thoughts...

TOOLS

“Blaise”
“SerDev”

SAS

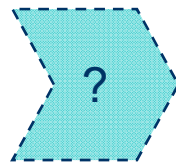
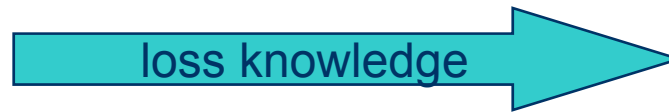
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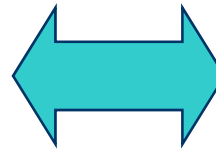
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IMDB

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DDI



PRODUCTS

Sample

Questionnaire

Interviewer handbook

Data Dictionary

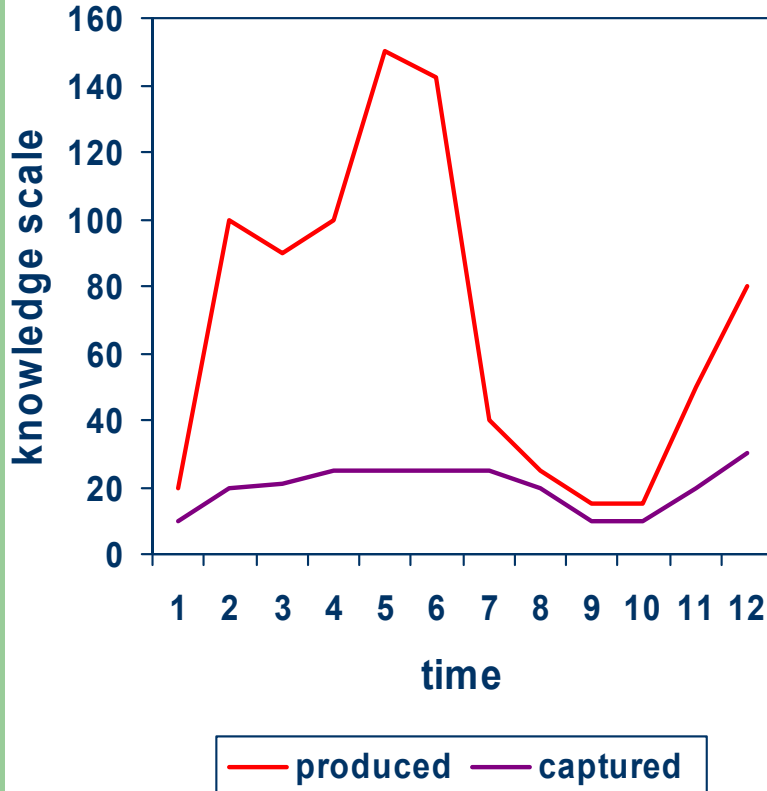
Record layout

User Guide

Microdata file

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Metadata life-cycle research



- identify amount of metadata produced over the life cycle of a survey
- identify tools in which metadata have been created, documented and stored
- integrate into DDI