QDDS

Questionnaire Development Documentation System

State and strategy for DDI 3

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Information Processes in the Social Sciences
Contents

1. Approach
2. Solution
3. Advantages from going DDI 3
Initial situation

• Questionaire development is a proces with several steps
• Information is kept for the final state
• Decisions get lost

• The reason is the gap between documentation needs and available software support
Software approach from 2006
Software approach from 2006

- The questionnaire should be developed independent from the projected survey system (paper&pencil, CATI…).
- Questionnaires could be structured by content
- questionnaire development and change documentation must be supported by the same system
Versioning concept

- A version always includes the entire questionnaire
- A version is reasoned by an external event (pretest, meeting etc.)
- All changes to single entities are documented within every version
Software approach from 2006
Problems with usage of DDI 2.1

- Data
  - No versioning mechanism
  - Some fields missing (e.g. text presets, layout information, …)

- Structure
  - Questions „live“ underneath variables -> variables will not be the same as in codebook
Usage of DDI 2.1

- Surrounding `codeBook` with versioning information and general settings
- Mainly using `codeBook/dataDscr/var`
- Putting additional information and versioning comments into `var/notes` as self-defined XML nodes
- Packing XML structures into zip archives
Architecture

UI class a
UI class b
UI class c
UI class d
Manager
Window
DDI2XyMan
DDI2XzMan
DDI2YxMan
DDI2YzMan
Architecture

UI class a
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UI class d

interface Manipulator
load(node)
get(field)
set(field, value)

Manager
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Window

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DDI3Online XyMan
DDI3Online XzMan
DDI3Online YxMan
DDI3Online YzMan
Advantages from going DDI 3

- Interoperability with future information systems
- Putting everything inside DDI 3 Format
- Versioning based on DDI 3
- Separation between variables and questions
- Multi-language support
- Re-usage of data from QDDS
Do you want to participate?

- Usage of QDDS Software is free of charge.
- Example Documents provided.
- “Source-Code” available by agreement.
Acknowledgement

There were three QDDS projects funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG), two of them together with gesis.

Ongoing Work (as planned)

1. Supporting DDI 3 (final phase)
2. Multi-user and multi-language support