Lost in Translation?
Experiences in documenting qualitative data at the ADA

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ASSDA/ADA
Presentation Overview

1. ASSDA or ADA
2. ADA-Qualitative
3. Changes to method
4. Changes to metadata
5. Changes to archival practice
6. Implementation
7. Future directions
ASSDA or ADA?

• From July 2011, ASSDA will be changing names to ADA - The Australian Data Archive, with a new website:
  • http://www.ada.edu.au
ADA Qualitative provides specialist data archiving and access services to qualitative researchers. We can offer assistance to researchers at all stages of the research process, from developing grant applications that incorporate plans for data archiving, to negotiating ethical challenges arising from data archiving, and preparing data for deposition into the archive.

ADA Qualitative aims to facilitate data sharing among qualitative researchers under rigorous access and use policies determined by the depositor. Data can be deposited in virtually any format, including document, audio and video files. The integration of qualitative data into the ADA network more broadly also means researchers using mixed methods combining quantitative and qualitative data will be able to keep their
ADA-Qualitative

• Aims to archive digital qualitative data generated through social science research, broadly defined.

• What makes it distinct from other digitized, document-based holdings, such as those already established for Arts and Humanities scholars, is that it will specialize in primary data generated through the research process (i.e. through interviews, observation or focus groups) rather than existing written texts or historical records.
Contributors

• The primary effort in this process has been lead by Lynda Cheshire from University of Queensland, the foundation Director of ADA-Qualitative (formerly AQuA)

• Technical development: Steve Hassan, Karen Dennison, Janet McDougall, Steve McEachern

• Metadata development: Karen Dennison, ADA archivist group
What’s different about archiving qualitative data?

- Changes to method: the researcher
- Changes to technical systems: the developer
- Changes to archival practice: the archivist
Changes to method

- Engagement with researchers early in the research process
- Lynda working with researchers at UQ to embed consent to archive in ethics processes (following UKDA model)
- Successfully implemented in data collection (>90% approval to archive across 3 studies)
- Have received our first deposit through this process
  - actually a mixed-methods study – additional challenge of blending qualitative and quantitative content
Changes to archival practice (1)

- Assessment of potential datasets for deposit raises questions about consent
  - Under what conditions can ADA accept data for deposit?
- Considerations:
  - What were the original conditions under which data was collected?
  - What consent was given by the participants in the research
Changes to archival practice (2)

- How to produce qualitative metadata?
- File metadata is relatively straightforward
  – can be extracted directly from file
- “Content” metadata is more difficult
  – Question of scale
  – 10 transcripts: ask depositor for description, or include as part of archival process
  – What about 1000 images??
Changes to technical systems: metadata

• Currently:
  – Embedding information in DDI (as related materials)
  – Transformation of file description and additional information to Qudex (standard attributes and resource attributes)
    • Demo script developed using Ruby

• Required:
  – Full Qudex description (distinguishing source/memo/etc.)
  – Relation metadata
<fileDscr>
  <fileTxt>
    <fileName ID="F2">
      99999/Disseminate/au.edu.anu.assda.ddi.99999.zip
    </fileName>
    <fileCont>
      Photos
    </fileCont>
    <fileType>
      zip
    </fileType>
  </fileTxt>
  <notes>
    Access Level A, Access Level B
  </notes>
</fileDscr>
<qudex>
  <resourceCollection id="1">
    <sources>
      <source ID="F_1" location ="./ASSDA presentation 2008.ppt" locType="url" resourceType="other" cdate="2011-05-22T15:53:48+10:00" mdate="2011-05-22T15:53:48+10:00" language="English" label="Qualitative File, Name = ASSDA presentation 2008.ppt, Type= other" displayLabel="Qualitative File, Name =ASSDA presentation 2008.ppt, Type=other" creator="Steve" checksumValue="0" checksumType="md-5" mimeType="ppt" sequence ="1" size = "342016"/>

      <source ID="F_2" location ="./assda_stat3005_2March2010.pptx" locType="url" resourceType="other" cdate="2011-05-22T15:53:48+10:00" mdate="2011-05-22T15:53:48+10:00" language="English" label="Qualitative File, Name = assda_stat3005_2March2010.pptx, Type= other" displayLabel="Qualitative File, Name =assda_stat3005_2March2010.pptx, Type=other" creator="Steve" checksumValue="0" checksumType="md-5" mimeType="pptx" sequence ="2" size = "10204650"/>
    </sources>
  </resourceCollection>
</qudex>
Changes to technical systems: browser access

- Embedded authority control in metadata to enable file-level control
- Adapted Nesstar ACL to enable browsing in Nesstar
- Currently embedded in Related Materials
Qualitative browser - Nesstar

Australian Social Science Data Archive


File Name
99999/Disseminate/IMG_0933.jpg

Contents of Files
These are extra data associated with this study. Please note that you may be asked for a password.

Sunset at Fowlers Bay

Type of File
image/jpeg
Qualitative browser - Nesstar
Currently testing – ADA CMS

Display of images using lightbox effects
Future requirements

• QuDex editor (specification has been developed)
  – Full implementation of QuDex requires this

• Relation “metadata builder”
  – Is automation possible?
  – Manual (visual) graph builder? (GraphViz?)

• Migration of <relMat> metadata to separate QuDex schema (at least until DDI integration of QuDex)
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Questions or comments?

For further information
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