Working with Research Institutions: what to do with social science data?

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The changing landscape

• Established UK discipline-specific Data Centres

• Some funded by major funders, e.g. ESRC, NERC supporting their Research Data Policies

• Growing number of local institutional data management policies and data repositories

• How do the two play together?
Division of Labour & Partnership

- Where do research data funded by ESRC data go? Data Policy specifies UK Data Service

- (Some) institutions want to hold long-tail data
  - Huge investment in data infrastructure by a few
  - None by others – looking for shared service and economies of scale

- Possible period of confusion for award holders!

- Who provides joined-up resource discovery of all ESRC data available in the UK?
Areas where IRs most likely need help

- Appraising social science data
  - Why are you keeping it?

- Disclosive data: anonymisation or controlled access?

- Quality assessment
  - Organising and formatting data
  - Documenting data
  - Metadata creation - detailed enough catalogue records

- Preservation, ‘Trusted Digital Repository’
Our support and consultancy for HEIs

- Supporting the UK MRD Programme and DCC in the social science area

- Metadata – guiding metadata meanderings for social science collections. DDI-based, but extra light

- Training and capacity building
  - Costing research data activities for sharing
  - Appraisal of social science research data for RLUK and Repository Managers
  - Data Seal of Approval? Larger UK institutions may want that

- Consultancy for Leeds University. Setting up a local repository for ESRC longitudinal qualitative data
A quality stamp for ESRC data?

• We advocate a ‘quality stamp’ for ESRC-funded social science data that has been processed according to data archival standards

• Cannot expect researchers to do all the QA

• Role of the repository manager is crucial

• Training plus a data collection assessment tool

• Will this be welcomed?
Questions

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