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

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UK Data Service



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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