Doctor, My Data!
Data Archive Support for Large Research Projects

Laurence Horton, Alexia Katsanidou
GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
IASSIST 2013, Cologne, 28 May 2013.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.
Arguments pushing RDM

Good science → Data re-use → Good politics
German funding bodies

- Federal Ministry of Education Research
- German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Smaller institutional foundations (Leibniz-Institute)
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

- 1998: Recommendation: “Primary data as the basis for publications shall be securely stored for ten years in a durable form in the institution of their origin”
- 2009: Recommendation to implement discipline-specific standards and procedures for long-term retention and sharing of data
- 2010: Researchers applying for funding have to provide information on which “measures will be implemented to ensure their management, curation and long-term preservation for future reuse”
GESIS’s Role

• We don’t have an institutional relationship
• We don’t have a funding mandate to serve
• We do have integrated relationships with long standing and significant research projects
• German Longitudinal Election Study
  – funded 2009 to 2018 by German Society for Electoral Studies (DGfW)
  – federal and state elections in Germany
  – will cover three federal elections (2009, 2013, and 2017)
• Tuning Educational Structures
  – comparable and compatible degrees profiles
  – Started in 2000 focused on European universities. Expanded to Latin America
  – Now active in Europe, Latin America, USA, Asia, Australia and Africa
  – Funded by EC Lifelong Learning Program Education and Culture DG
  – between the University of Deusto (Spain) and University of Groningen (Netherlands)
PIREDEEU (Providing an Infrastructure for Research on Electoral Democracy in the European Union)

- Research into citizenship, political participation, and electoral democracy in the EU
  - 13 institutions
  - 2009, 2014 European Election Study
Typical problems

- Poorly described
- Vulnerable storage
- Problems with consent and anonymisation
- Problems with ownership
Approaches to RDM support

We’re never going to be in one place:

- Retrospective
- Prospective
- Ongoing

Source: © Universal Studios. All rights Reserved
Two forms of intervention

**Accident & Emergency**

- Projects with immediate RDM problems that need “treatment”

**“An apple a day…”**

- Preventative care
  - Integrated role for archives in the research project as members of research team or consultancy basis
Areas on which to focus…

• RDM arguments still tied too closely to funding requirements
• Must focus on the good science arguments
• International cooperation/national (or state) level problems
• What about small research projects?