Bringing researchers into the game with FORSbase: an integrated system for archiving, networking, and survey construction

Brian Kleiner, Eliane Ferrez, and Sybil Kruegel

FORS, Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences

IASSIST 2013, Cologne
Data management goals

- To improve research processes and quality
- To produce data that are re-usable and archive-ready
Needs of researchers

- To see the benefits of data management
- Tools to assist in data management
Needs of data services

- Continuous expansion of data holdings
- Archiving tools to overcome resource limitations
- Researcher participation and support
Good tools that promote and facilitate data management are the key to overcoming motivational and resource barriers for researchers, as well as resource limitations for data services.
To succeed, the tools must respond to the «real world» needs and interests of researchers
New system for data management: FORSbase

- Greater automatization
- Easy-to-use tools
- All-in-one integrated system
- Researcher “enticements”
Key elements

- Personal and team workspaces
- Networking and messaging system
- Self-deposit and download
- Survey development tool
- Question databank
- Guides and resources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref study</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>End date</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Comportements en matière de santé (SOMIPORS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>186</td>
<td>L'évaluation comme instrument d'apprentissage et de changement organisationnels - L'exemple des programmes cantonaux de promotion de la santé</td>
<td>28.06.1994</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>Evaluation du &quot;Plan de santé&quot; de type HMO</td>
<td>28.10.1995</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>497</td>
<td>Enquête sur la pauvreté et la précarité en Suisse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>519</td>
<td>Evaluation du bus de prévention du sida (BIPS) à Genève</td>
<td>28.10.1993</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>541</td>
<td>Santé, maladie et vieillissement: suivi longitudinal d'une population âgée de 40 à 65 ans</td>
<td>28.10.1995</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>542</td>
<td>Longévité, qualité de vie et cancer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>545</td>
<td>L'entrée en toxicomanie</td>
<td>28.09.1993</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>547</td>
<td>Politiques cantonales en matière de prévention du sida et des toxicomanies dans le cadre scolaire</td>
<td>28.03.1993</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Big Picture
The FORSbase Application Platform

Users
- Researcher/Producer
- FORS Collaborator
- Researcher/Consumer

Processes
- Study Elaboration
- Submission
- Quality Assurance
- Publication/Archive
- Search, Browse
- Download

Environment
- Personal Workspace
- FORS Workspace
- Unified Search, Browse, Filter, Access

Global Functions
- Communication, Messaging etc.

Modules
- Workspace
- FORS Archive: Ingest, Manage, Access
- Compass
- Project Inventory
- NESSTAR Adaptor
- Future Module
Big Picture
Study Elaboration

Users
- Researcher/Producer
- FORS Collaborator
- Researcher/Consumer

Processes
- Study Elaboration
- Submission
- Quality Assurance
- Publication/Archive
- Search, Browse
- Download

Environment
- Personal Workspace
- FORS Workspace
- Unified Search, Browse, Filter, Access

Global Functions
Communication, Messaging etc.

Modules
- Workspace
- FORS Archive
  - Ingest
  - Manage
  - Access
- Compass
- Project Inventory
- NESSTAR Adaptor

Future Process
Future Module
Big Picture
Quality Assurance

Users
- Researcher/Producer
- FORS Collaborator
- Researcher/Consumer

Processes
- Study Elaboration
- Submission
- Quality Assurance
- Publication/Archive
- Search, Browse
- Download

Environment
- Personal Workspace
- FORS Workspace

Global Functions
- Unified Search, Browse, Filter, Access
- Communication, Messaging etc.

Modules
- Workspace
- FORS Archive
  - Ingest
  - Manage
  - Access
- Compass
- Project Inventory
- NESSTAR Adaptor

Future Process
Future Module
Big Picture
Publication and Archive

Users
- Researcher/Producer
- FORS Collaborator
- Researcher/Consumer

Processes
- Study Elaboration
- Submission
- Quality Assurance
- Publication/Archive
- Search, Browse
- Download

Environment
- Personal Workspace
- FORS Workspace
- Unified Search, Browse, Filter, Access

Global Functions
- Communication, Messaging etc.

Modules
- Workspace
- FORS Archive (Ingest, Manage, Access)
- Compass
- Project Inventory
- NESSTAR Adaptor
- Future Module
Enticements and benefits for researchers

- Researcher workspaces
- Networking
- Visibility and recognition
- Structured documentation and data sharing
- Long-term secure storage of data
- Easy and immediate access to data
Benefits for the data service

- Increased capacity to integrate new studies
- Reduced workload
- Greater visibility within research community
Stages of development of FORSbase

- Version 1: Foundation and project inventory (April 2013)
- Version 2: Archiving functionalities and messaging system (September 2014)
- Version 3: Survey development tool and question databank (2016)
To be continued…
FORSbase Strategic Vision
Technical View

1. Web application and business logic with Python and Django web framework
2. 3rd party archive module: to be defined
3. Database system: mySQL