DwB - WP4

Improving Access to Microdata
A pilot for a European Remote Access Network

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Outline

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What is Remote Access?

Within the DwB project’s WP4 Remote Access (RA) is defined like that:

- User can access data through a secure connection
- Data stays on the servers of the data provider
- only a image is provided on the desktop
- access to confidential microdata
- the user can see the data s/he is working with
Aim of WP4

Ease European research by enhancing data access from a technical point of view.
First tasks are already on the way:

- A survey about the state of the art of remote access in Europe was carried out
- A feasibility study about the transition of existing solution into a network is on the way
- Reports will be available soon (dwbproject.org)

Partners of WP 4 are: CNRS (France), NSD (Norway), IAB (Germany), CBS (Netherlands), Destatis (Germany), UKDA (UK), INSEE (France), ONS (UK);
RDC in RDC approach

The PFiF-project by IAB already established a remote access solution under the following restrictions:

- Data of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) must stay within the facilities of the BA
- A secure environment (safe center) is needed when accessing remotely
- Since this year the FDZ of the BA provides access from different locations
RDC in RDC approach

- Remote Access is based on a Thin Client/Citrix solution
- This network is still growing. Upcoming locations (planned):
  - Berkeley (USA)
  - Cornell (USA)
  - INSEE (France)
  - SDS (UK)
  - CBS (Netherlands)
  - ISTAT (Italy)
RDC in RDC approach - extended (WP4)

- Goal of WP4 is to create a two-way connection between (at least) three European RDCs

  INSEE, France ↔ IAB, Germany ↔ UKDA, UK

- Topics to be clarified:
  - Technical solution for all three partners
  - Contracts between IAB and the two other partners
  - List of datasets that are available (from a legal and organizational point of view)
  - This will be productive in the third year of DwB (2013)
To ease European research data access to confidential microdata has to be enhanced.

Goals:

1. Access from different locations in Europe (no national borders)
2. Safe connections to the data
3. Allow different kinds of data storage (due to different legal restrictions)
4. Make comparative analysis possible
5. Organize disclosure control in an effective way
Data Access points

Depending on national law different data access points are possible/needed:

- Anywhere in the world (only internet access and validation is needed)
- Institutions, e.g. Universities or research institutes (controlled, e.g., by a fixed IP range)
- Safe centre (legal and organizational defined secure environments)
Data storage issues

Depending on

- the responsible law,
- the shape of data (e.g. survey vs. admin data),
- and the level of data anonymization

different locations for data storage are possible/needed:

- Anywhere
- Within a given country
- Within the facilities of the data provider
A Remote Access Network

Data Access

Anywhere

Institution

Safe Centre without data

Safe Centre with data

Single Point of Access

Data Storage

Central Repository

Data

Data

Data

Data
Combining or comparing data

1. Within the Central Repository
   - if allowed by law and
   - useful form a statistical point of few

2. Between Safe Centres and the Central Repository
   - the same as above and in addition
   - only via a safe connection (shortens the possibilities of data combining)
Technical issues

- What technical solutions fit for all partners
- What technical solutions are future proofed
- How to proof and certificate data security
- What costs will appear (for establishing the solution and for the running network)
Legal and organizational issues

- What is possible due to the different regulations within the EU (data storage, data access, disclosure control etc.)
- Who will be responsible for the network
- How should support for researchers look like
Summary and Outlook

- A remote access network could bring European data closer to European researchers
- More transnational research will be possible
- The two-way connection is already on the way
- Technical, legal and organizational issues regarding the remote access network have to be discussed and clarified

Let's start right now!!!
Thank you!

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