

## Editor's notes

### Research data in demystified compliance, with "glocal" indexing, and archival development

Welcome to this volume 36-2 2012 of the IASSIST Quarterly (IQ). This editorial is written in October 2013, so you might rightfully wonder what time zone IQ is in. Yes, we are truly sorry that there have been hiccups in the process. However, the good news is that we have several issues in the pipeline being compiled by guest editors. With the many efforts of these busy people we hope to catch up on the production schedule with these coming special issues.

Now, however, we have three articles in this issue with investigations emanating from institutions that we term as "data archives" or "data libraries".

Natascha Schumann and Astrid Recker from the Data Archive for the Social Sciences, at the GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Cologne, are demystifying some central issues on data archiving in their paper "De-mystifying OAIS compliance: Benefits and challenges of mapping the OAIS reference model to the GESIS Data Archive". Papers for the IQ often evolve from presentations at conferences, as did this one, being updated from the IASSIST 2013 conference session "Beyond Bits and Bytes: The Organizational Dimension of Digital Preservation." The authors are exploring the use of OAIS (Open Archival Information System) as an abstract reference model as it is being mapped to the GESIS data archive. "Welcome to the real world!" The authors focus on how the OAIS is considered to be a language and as such does not present a concrete solution. OAIS has since the late 1990s shaped and influenced the digital preservation discourse. The GESIS Data Archive followed in the footsteps of ICPSR and the UK Data Archive when it tested "OAIS compliance", when investigating the functions of the archival information system by mapping processes to the OAIS. The investigation presented in the paper will be of benefit to others working at data archives and similar institutions. By the way, the authors conclude that "OAIS compliance" is not simply a Yes/No question. Compliance is complicated!

Also from GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences - comes the next paper "Thesaurus-Based Indexing of Research Data in the Social Sciences: Opportunities and Difficulties of Internationalization Efforts" by Katrin Baum and Andreas Oskar Kempf. Internationalization and standardization are areas supported and enhanced by IASSIST. The authors cite the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) as an example of an international standard for describing data, facilitating international data exchange. Before data can be exchanged it has to be identified. The authors are investigating international indexing which enhances the precision of searches for data materials. The paper highlights some international organizations offering support for indexing, for example through descriptions in the "European Language Social Science Thesaurus" (ELSST) and the "Topic Classification" used by the member organizations of CESSDA (European

data archives). International indexing and local indexing both have their pros and cons. The paper is proposing a "glocal" solution that combines and integrates positive contributions from both types of indexing.

The last paper "Differences among Faculty Ranks in Views on Research Data Management" is research carried out by Katherine G. Akers and Jennifer Doty when they worked in e-Science and data management at Emory University Libraries. Katherine G. Akers now works as a postdoc at the University of Michigan Libraries. The authors investigated how faculty researchers manage their data during and after their research projects, and their views on data sharing and preservation. The pragmatic purpose is for the libraries to develop research data services tailored to their specific needs. Researchers' age and amount of experience are often thought to be important factors, but other studies have not shown this conclusively. This research found that senior faculty stated more often that sharing their research data requires too much time and effort. I suggest that this gives data archives further incentive to continue to improve the ease of depositing research data.

Articles for the IASSIST Quarterly are always very welcome. They can be papers from IASSIST conferences or other conferences and workshops, from local presentations or papers especially written for the IQ. Authors are permitted "deep links" where you link directly to your paper published in the IQ. Chairing a conference session with the purpose of aggregating and integrating papers for a special issue IQ is also much appreciated as the information reaches many more people than the session participants, and will be readily available on the IASSIST website at <http://www.iasistdata.org>.

Authors are very welcome to take a look at the instructions and layout:  
<http://iasistdata.org/iq/instructions-authors>.

Authors can also contact me via e-mail: [kbr@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:kbr@sam.sdu.dk). Should you be interested in compiling a special issue for the IQ as guest editor(s) I will also be delighted to hear from you.

Karsten Boye Rasmussen  
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Editor