

Editor's notes

Depositing data and placing it on the market

This issue (volume 35-4, 2011) of the IASSIST Quarterly (IQ) is the last of the 2011 volume. Many IASSIST members are now getting ready and looking forward to this year's conference. Probably it will turn out to be "the best ever!" and with interesting papers for the coming issues of the IQ.

This issue focuses on aspects of the depositing of data, the guidelines, regulations and formalities involved, and also on the connections between the deposit and the re-use of data.

The paper entitled "Examination of Data Deposit Practices in Repositories with the OAIS Model: Social Science Context" is written by Ayoung Yoon and Helen Tibbo from the School of Information and Library Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The paper examines the requirements for depositing data in selected data repositories by analyzing the forms and guidelines for such deposits. The Open Archival Information System (OAIS) - an ISO standard - is used as a framework for this examination. The authors emphasize and reference others in arguing how "research data need to be available for use beyond the purposes for which they were initially collected, to make the results of studies using publicly funded data available to the public, to enable others to ask new questions of extant data and advance solutions for complex human problems, to advance the state of science, to reproduce research, and to expand the instruments and products of research to new communities". The authors use a method of content analysis in examining the requirements that exist within depositors' guidelines and deposit forms. The analysis is based upon 14 documents from 16 social science data repositories. The analysis is not looking into the actual content but registering the "required", "optional" and "not mentioned" requirements. It turned out that the documents varied significantly, including such surprises as not all repositories asked for the title or a description of the data study.

The second paper is authored by Cristina Ribeiro and Maria Eugénia Matos Fernandes from the University of Porto (Universidade do Porto). As the title outlines - "Data Curation at U.Porto: Identifying current practices across disciplinary domains" - we are now turning from comparing depositing at different repositories to the differences in data curation between different disciplines. The study has involved researchers collecting their views on data curation and data. The article includes a presentation of the University of Porto and the paper draws information from a local information system called SIGARRA (Information System for the Aggregated Management of Resources and Academic Records). This system supports authors in making their intellectual output centrally available as they sign contracts with publishers, so they maintain the right to self-archive their work in institutional open repositories that include a data repository prototype. The interviews with the researchers

found that the design of a data repository should be determined by researchers' needs.

From curation and depositing of data, the authors Laurence Horton and Alexia Katsanidou from GESIS (GESIS-Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Cologne) take a further step in their paper "Purposing your survey: archives as a market regulator, or how can archives connect supply and demand?". The authors start with the statement that researchers who are data creators and researchers who are data re-users have different needs and that archives mediate between them. The paper outlines the GESIS plan to create a research data management and archive training centre for the European research area. In their paper the authors give examples of how the re-use of data now has strong political support. The European Commission has committed itself to an open data policy and this is accompanied by statements like "Taxpayers have already paid for this information, the least we can do is give it back to those who want to use it in new ways..." and "Your data is worth more if you give it away". The arguments presented for data preservation and sharing are the technological and financial benefits. There are, however, continued obstacles that prevent data sharing viewed from the supply side of the social sciences. There are restrictions through law and ethics, and also a lack of incentives to share data.

As a publisher the IASSIST Quarterly supports the need to have institutional open repositories as mentioned in the second paper. We also support "deep links" where you link directly to your paper published in the IQ. Articles for the IQ 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. If you don't have anything to offer right now, then please prepare yourself for a future IASSIST conference and start planning for participation in a session there. Chairing a conference session with the purpose of aggregating and integrating papers for a special issue IQ is much appreciated as the information in the form of an IQ issue reaches many more people than the session participants and will be readily available on the IASSIST website at <http://www.iassistdata.org>.

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

Authors can also contact me via e-mail: 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.

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Editor