Editor's notes

Standardization supporting diversity of use

Welcome to the fourth issue of Volume 39 of the IASSIST Quarterly (IQ 39:4, 2015).

This issue of the IASSIST Quarterly brings four papers from the IASSIST 2015 conference in Minneapolis. All four have their focus on research data. We take off with the development of curation software, and continue with the special problems of handling video streams because of the current heterogeneous policies requiring much effort from researchers. Next follows recommendations for good practices for research data repositories and for university programs in including data management. These three papers overall discuss issues of standardization and how that can benefit researchers and other users of data. The fourth paper demonstrates that standardization in building data collections and software does not necessarily lead to standardized use, by describing the use of data in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in very diverse subject areas.

The first paper is 'New Curation Software: Step-by-Step Preparation of Social Science Data and Code for Publication and Preservation' by Limor Peer and Stephanie Wykstra. The conference presentation was in the session 'Curation and Research Data Repositories'. Limor Peer is Associate Director for Research at Yale University's Institution for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS) and Stephanie Wykstra is Research Manager of Research Transparency at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). The curation software for reviewing and enhancing research data and code is being developed by research groups at these two institutions in collaboration with Colectica. Social research carried out at ISPS and IPA includes field experiments. The paper begins with a discussion of the value of data sharing, and leads on to a description of key curation tasks and the support offered by new curation software. There is an appendix with a detailed description of the curation tasks and also many references and useful links.

Purdue University has a research project using big data and visual analytics based on over 60,000 publicly accessible video feeds (e.g. weather or traffic cameras). The large quantity of data raises questions about its management. This is described in the paper 'Comparing policies for open data from publicly accessible international sources', that was presented in the conference session 'Data Professionals'. The authors Line C. Pouchard, Megan Sapp Nelson, and Yung-Hsiang Lu are assistant or associate professors at Purdue. Such data sources currently have heterogeneous policies for data use. The paper compares different policies and describes the implications for open access. The discussion uses examples of the law relating to data privacy in the US and EU such as the UK data protection policy based on the European Union Data Protection Directive. Fifteen policies were analyzed and are presented in graphics. To illustrate the research burden, the paper describes policies having different use restrictions, all of which the researcher has to abide by when collecting from the various video feeds. The authors propose a template of standards for the components of the policies, as implementation of standards could support scientific use and reuse of video data.

The third paper 'Research Data Repositories: Review of current features, gap analysis, and recommendations for minimum requirements' is by a group of Canadian authors: Claire C. Austin, Susan Brown, Nancy Fong, Chuck Humphrey, Amber Leahey and Peter Webster. The work was presented in the conference session 'Data Repository Models and Infrastructure' by Amber Leahey. The group surveyed 32 Canadian and international online data platforms and compared features and services. Alongside this work Research Data Canada developed and published guidelines for deposit and preservation of research data. As with the other papers in this volume, this paper carries extensive literature references as well as excellent documentation of the work through the text and appendices. In the conclusion, the authors recommend that best practices for data management should be incorporated widely in university studies to support research by building capacity and skills.

Students directly experiencing use of research data in their study programs is addressed in the fourth paper 'Teaching users to work with research data: case studies in architecture, history and social work' by Aaron Addison and Jennifer Moore, who both work at Washington University in St. Louis. This work was presented at the 'Training Data Users II' session at the 2015 conference. The teaching of research data was based on using GIS in three contexts: primary collection, digital data reuse and mined textual data. The examples from different disciplines addressed subjects ranging from climate change through reconstruction of history to data for villages in India. There is a strong argument that visualization and location with GIS supports the understanding of data. Further support of GIS is found in the long list of learning outcomes experienced. The paper delivers a thorough description of the examples used in the problem-based teaching in the various disciplines

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. When you are preparing a presentation, give a thought to turning your one-time presentation into a lasting contribution to continuing development. As an author you 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.iassistdata.org*.

Authors are very welcome to take a look at the instructions
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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.

Karsten Boye Rasmussen
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Editor