Data Seal of Approval

Case study GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences

Natascha Schumann
GESIS

- Infrastructure institution for the Social Sciences
- GESIS provides services in the fields of
  - Data: archiving, research, social monitoring
  - Methodology: consultation, developing complex methods
  - Information: social science literature and research activities
GESIS Data Archive

• Explicit mission: archiving social science research data
• Purpose of the GESIS Data Archive is to keep social science research data available for data sharing and data re-use
• International data exchange (e.g. CESSDA, IFDO)
Why certification activities?

- Ensuring stakeholders that the data they are using, producing or funding is treated according to established standards and norms
- Revision of our workflows
- Need to prove trustworthiness is not only an issue for new players but also for established ones like the GESIS Data Archive
- Trustworthiness among European Archives (CESSDA)
Our approach

1. Data Seal of Approval within the context of CESSDA-AS: Agreement that every archive should make a self-assessment based on the DSA

2. Data Seal of Approval

3. nestor Seal based on DIN 31644

4. …
Data Seal of Approval

Repositories that are committed to archiving and providing access to data in a sustainable way.

16 Guidelines reflecting different roles:
• Data producers
• Data repository
• Data users
## Level of compliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement of Compliance</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Comments and/or URLs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Provide an explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Provide an explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Theoretical</td>
<td>Provide a URL for the initiation document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Provide a URL for the supporting document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
<td>Provide a URL for the supporting document</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment Process

1. Self-assessment
2. External peer-review of self-assessment
3. Question & response process if necessary

Once the DSA is awarded by the Board, the repository may display the DSA-Logo on its website and the assessment including review comments will be published.
Getting started

- Evaluation of existing workflows with regard to the requirements
- Detection of missing documentation und documents (internal as well as external)
- Workflows themselves are already in place (and work), but there was a lack of appropriate documentation, especially on our website
Newly created documents

• Preservation Policy
• Collection Policy
• Usage Guidelines for GESIS DBK Metadata
• Contract for on-site and off-site use (SDC)
Data Archiving

GESIS preserves quantitative social research data to make it available to the scientific research community. All data are preserved for the long-term and documented to international standards. Data is free to archive, and free to access.

The GESIS Data Archive received the Data Seal of Approval and is certified as a trusted digital repository. Here you can find the full assessment.

Preparation of social surveys (e.g. ALLBUS, Eurobarometer, EVS, ISSP, etc.) with additional enhancement with extensive processing and documentation on the process of archiving research data.

Preparation of submission: clarifying the formal and legal aspects (e.g. archive number, title, description of data and documentation), and ways to submit data

Preparation of accession: assigning a study number and DOI

Preparation of documentation: describing the content and methods, metadata

Ingesting system, storage

Categories, charges, portals

Legal Aspects

Ingest

Study description

Archiving

Access

Long Term Preservation
Digital Preservation Policy

Principles of digital preservation at the Data Archive for the Social Sciences
Documentation

- Excel sheet with all relevant documents and information:
  - General information and information on website
  - Contracts and guidelines
  - Access information
  - Technical documentation
  - Standards and policies
  - References
Experiences

- Reconsider workflows
- Update processes with regard to digital preservation
- Time intensive
- Many processes and activities at the same time depending on each other
Benefits

- Valuable effect of establishing a common understanding for the mission and goals of an institution
- Become aware of the capabilities, strengths and most important weaknesses or gaps within the institution
- Implementation of new tools (e.g. monitoring of checksums)
- Ensure fulfillment of the requirements of being a trusted digital repository and display this to the public
- Good preparation for the next step (nestor seal)
MORE TRANSPARENCY
Data Management Plan? Wir helfen Ihnen weiter!

News & Topics

Special Issue der HSR erschienen: The Energy Crises of the 1970s
09. Oktober 2014

CEWSjournal Nr. 95 erschienen
24. September 2014

NOCH BIS 21.09.: Onlineumfrage zum Frageprogramm des ALLBUS 2016 "Einstellungen gegenüber ethnischen Gruppen"
17. September 2014

Social Media

Folgen Sie uns auf Google+
GESIS auf Facebook
Folgen Sie uns auf Twitter
Any questions?

natascha.schumann@gesis.org