

Recommended Deposit Services for SSH*

Background and description

The report provides an extensive in-depth assessment of existing and developing data archive services in Europe. The overall aim has been to allow the selection and promotion of high-quality deposit services for researchers in the SSH community and to make suggestions for service improvements.

The assessment was carried out in two steps. First a broad web-survey was conducted to gain insight into the organisations and the general state of the data archive services across Europe. The survey design was built on the results of D4.2, which analysed policies and practices within selected data service providers, and on the ‘Data Archive Description Sheet’ (DADS) developed to summarise these findings¹. Secondly, in order to get a more detailed picture of the current situation, in-depth interviews with key personnel of a limited number of promising data archive services were conducted. Of the six selected services, two were from CESSDA, two from DARIAH and two from CLARIN/SHARE.

Based on the findings and the collected information we presented a list of high-quality and promising data archive services, in addition to some suggestions and recommendations for further improvements of existing data archive services.

Findings

Several questions were asked regarding the details of the data services, covering concepts like organisational context, deposit and ingest, archival storage and preservation, dissemination and future developments. Within these categories a few key indicators were used to operationalise the ‘level of maturity’ and the trustworthiness of the data archive. The availability and content of documents like *mission statement*, *deposit agreements*, *code of conduct*, *preservation policies*, etc., indicate the degree of maturity and key aspects of the trustworthiness of data archive services.

The results of the survey indicate that, in general, services in North-Western Europe have, measured through the above mentioned indicators, reached a higher maturity level than the ones from Eastern and Southern Europe. Similarly, the survey and follow-up interviews also indicate that for services within CESSDA the maturity level seems to be somewhat higher in comparison to CLARIN and DARIAH infrastructures.

Other indicators, e.g. questions concerning whether or not the archival services have undertaken any activities or used any systematic means to determine their level of trustworthiness, support these findings.

* Deliverable 4.3 of WP 4: List of Recommended Deposit Services for SSH. Available at: <http://dasish.eu/publications/>

¹ See D4.2: Report about Preservation Service Offers. Available at <http://dasish.eu/publications/>

Table 1: Suggestions for service improvement

	Description
1	Every DAS should use a PID-system. A DAS is free in its choice, but on the level of the five SSH ESFRI the focus should lie in the realisation of interoperability of these PID-systems.
2	Following the conclusion of the DASISH Strategic Workshop on AAI, a Federated Identity Management system has to be developed to promote interdisciplinary use of deposited datasets. EDUGAIN, as part of the Géant services, may play an important role in the realisation of trustworthy exchange of information between federations.
3	In Europe a model based dataPASS-model should be developed, creating a common European Digital Stewardship Alliance.
4	The development of training courses is costly. Sharing already developed courses within and across the five SSH infrastructures will reduce the cost for a specific DAS.
5	Certification of DASs is needed, not only as an indication of the level of their trust, but also as a means to set up new DASs or to upgrade existing DASs according to high-level standards.
6	Especially within a specific ESFRI, deposit agreements have to be harmonised.
7	Clear guidelines, procedures and requirements for management, archiving, and sharing of data should be developed by the five RI in SSH, CLARIN, DARIAH, CESSDA, SHARE and ESS in order to realise harmonisation in this respect.

Table 2: Recommended and promising data archive services*

Data archive service	Country	ESFRI
UKDA	UK	CESSDA
GESIS	Germany	CESSDA
NSD	Norway	CESSDA
DANS	Norway	CESSDA, CLARIN, DARIAH
TLA	Netherlands	CLARIN
ADS	UK	DARIAH
BAS	Germany	CLARIN, SHARE
CSDA	Czech Republic	CESSDA, ESS
Oxford Text Archive	UK	CESSDA
TextGrid	Germany	DARIAH
St.Beeld & Geluid	Netherlands	CLARIN
UFAL	Czech Republic	CLARIN
DDA	Denmark	CESSDA
DTARe	Germany	CLARIN
ADP	Slovenia	CESSDA
DARIS	Switzerland	CESSDA, ESS, SHARE
Réseau Quetelet	France	CESSDA, ESS, SHARE
SLDR	France	CLARIN, DARIAH
Tarki	Hungary	CESSDA, ESS

*Based on the survey and preceding reports in the work package we found that the most important requirements to be met by a sustainable data archive service are: a) having met the requirements of (minimum) the Data Seal of Approval; b) an explicit and publicly available Preservation Policy; clear deposit licenses, usage licences and rights management; c) a long-term preservation perspective; and d) a preservation strategy using migration and/or emulation. The table presents recommended candidates and promising candidates among the surveyed data archive services.

