SYNERGIES FOR EUROPE'S RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Questionnaire Design and Documentation Tool (QDDT)

The QDDT is an interactive and dynamic web-based tool that can be used to document, retrieve and reuse information on the complex process of designing a cross-national survey questionnaire.

Why do social researchers need the QDDT?

A challenge facing survey researchers is how to capture complex questionnaire design processes, a process which often involves multiple actors (subject specialists, country teams, translation and questionnaire design experts) and different stages of development (cognitive interviewing, piloting) in a way that is both comprehensive and easy to navigate.

Often the questionnaire design process is either not documented in full detail or involves working with word or PDF documents which can be hard to manage.

How does the QDDT solve the problem?

The use case for the SERISS project is the questionnaire design process of the European Social Survey (ESS). Two rotating modules of questions are developed over the course of two years via an iterative process involving multiple stages of testing and discussion.

The QDDT helps researchers to develop conceptually -grounded questionnaires; track the development and history of questions over time; reuse metadata components such as questions or response options and publish and share content at project-specific milestones.

The QDDT is based on DDI 3.2 and so interoperable with other DDI-based tools.

How can researchers use the QDDT?

This tool was developed primarily with the European Social Survey in mind. However, the tool is also expected to be useful to other national and cross-national surveys.

The tool is publicly available under the GNU General Public License v3.0. If you are interested in using the tool please contact surveytools@nsd.no.

Where to find out more about the QDDT

QDDT wiki:
https://github.com/DASISH/qddt-client/wiki

Info about the QDDT at the DDI Alliance web-site:
https://www.ddialliance.org/tool/the-questionnaire-design-and-development-tool-%E2%80%93-qddt-v10

www.SERISS.eu

Project Summary

Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS) aims to equip Europe's social science data infrastructures to play a major role in addressing the key societal challenges facing Europe today and ensure that national and European policymaking is built on a solid base of the highest quality socio-economic evidence. SERISS involves the three leading European Research Infrastructures in the social sciences – the European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE ERIC) and the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA ERIC) – together with organizations representing the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), European Values Study (EVS) and WageIndicator.

Undertaking collaborative research and creating tools to assist future data collection, SERISS has exploited potential synergies among these infrastructures and fostered inter-operability, harmonization and innovation in three key ways:

- Addressing key challenges for cross-national data collection including how best to represent the views and behavior of the population and how to achieve equivalence of meaning across countries via high-quality translation

- Breaking down barriers between infrastructures by developing common technological platforms and creating shared online tools and resources

- Embracing the future of the social sciences by exploring new forms of data and new modes of data collection

SERISS Tools

SERISS has developed a suite of online tools to support different stages of the data lifecycle from design to collection to analysis. The tools are designed to support higher quality and cost effective data collection and ensure that data are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR). They are available to be used by national and international research infrastructures.

Find out more about SERISS Tools

- Questionnaire Design and Documentation Tool (QDDT) https://github.com/DASISH/qddt-client/wiki or contact surveytools@nsd.no

- Translation Management Tool (TMT) https://seriss.centerdata.nl/ or contact centerdata@uvt.nl

- Question Variable Database (QVDB) https://colectica.nsd.no/ or contact surveytools@nsd.no

- Fieldwork Management System (FMS) https://seriss.centerdata.nl/page2.php or contact centerdata@uvt.nl

- SMaP/myEVS https://www.gesis.org/en/research/applied-computer-science/labs/#c78056 or contact myevs.support@gesis.org.

- Surveycodings.org www.surveycodings.org

- Variable Harmonization HUB (VHH) https://harmonization.gesis.org/#!Home

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