Seminar on Secondary Data Analysis
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IRISH SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ARCHIVE (ISSDA)

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Overview

- ISSDA Mission
- ISSDA in context: Ireland
- ISSDA in context: Europe and the CESSDA
- Data: Collections scope
- Connecting with ISSDA
  - Discovering and exploring data
  - Requesting datasets from ISSDA
  - ISSDA on the Web and Social Media
  - Other contact options

What is ISSDA?

- Mission
  "... to ensure wide access to quantitative datasets in the social sciences, and to advance the promotion of international comparative studies of the Irish economy and Irish society."
- Objectives
  - Data management and provision
  - Promotion of the use of data for the benefit of society
  - Facilitating trans-national data access
  - Assuring the long-term preservation of data
ISSDA in Context: Ireland

- A national service based in UCD
- PRTLI Cycle 4 funding through June 2012 provided operating mandate
  - Based at UCD Geary Institute through June 2012
  - Transition to UCD Library July 2012
- Similar service model to other European social science data archives
- Operating mandate and governance determined by requirements of PRTLI programme

ISSDA in Context: Europe and the CESSDA

- Member of the Council of Irish Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA)
  - http://www.cessda.org/
  - CESSDA sponsors services and coordinates planning
    - NESSTAR – software for data portals
    - CESSDA Catalogue – international metadata aggregation
      http://www.cessda.org/accessing/catalogue/index.html
    - “Expert Seminars” for CESSDA members
    - Liaison with other European projects (DwB, DASISH, etc.)
    - CESSDA PPP – Planning basis for the construction phase of the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC); focus on access to research data within the European Research Area (ERA)

CESSDA ERIC

- A new organisational context, the ERIC
- Hosted by Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)
- CESSDA-ERIC Preparation planning funded by the Research Council of Norway (2011-2012)
- Membership agreement on charter and membership terms
  - Full and associate membership levels
  - Specific data management and service requirements
- CESSDA ERIC target launch date: January 2013
ISSDA: Collections Scope

- Key Irish and international comparative datasets
- Data providers:
  - Central Statistical Office (CSO)
  - ESRI
  - others
- Sponsorship of access to datasets at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

ISSDA: Collections Scope, Future Outlook

- Future diversification of data offerings, driven by
  - Increased interest in administrative data
  - Current focus on trans-national research
  - Current focus on open data
  - Growing interest in private data
  - Deposit of analytical or other datasets arising from secondary research (compliance requirements, adjunct to research publications)

Connecting with ISSDA

- ISSDA website (www.issda.ie)
  - All available datasets listed and described in detail
  - May include:
    - Variable lists
    - Variable frequencies
    - Codebooks
    - Reports
    - Datasets (e.g., Irish National Election Study)
    - Links to further information
    - Permission forms
  - Beginnings of a data portal...
Connecting with ISSDA: Website

- Data access from website
  - Distribution:
    - CD-ROM, via post; may be encrypted (e.g., GUI)
    - ftp (to be phased out, no new accounts created)
  - Data formats:
    - SPSS portable
    - SAS, Stata, comma-separated may be possible, per request
  - Documentation: general PDF, MS Word, plain text
  - Charges: limited to compulsory charges required by data provider (e.g., European Community Household Panel survey)
  - End-user licence details, etc.
Connecting with ISSDA: Data Catalogue

- Implementation is ongoing
- Advantages:
  - Data prepared for NESSTAR has been extensively validated and is “ready to use”
  - Provides a web environment to:
    - Locate and browse datasets, reports, and other documents
    - Explore and select variables
    - Access codebooks
    - Analyse and visualise data
    - Download data
- NESSTAR status
  - Selected survey data, User accounts not yet enabled
Development Objectives 2012-2014

- Continued data collection
  - Survey data
  - Analytical data from research
- Development of joint data portal with IQDA
- Infrastructure development
  - NESSTAR: data, user accounts/access management
  - Data preservation infrastructure
- CESSDA membership

ISSDA on the Web

- [http://www.issda.ie](http://www.issda.ie)
- [http://nesstar.ucd.ie/](http://nesstar.ucd.ie/)
- issda@ucd.ie
- Twitter - @issda
  - [http://twitter.com/#!/issda](http://twitter.com/#!/issda)