DIGITAL PRESERVATION: ONE COMPONENT OF DATA SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE A PRACTITIONER’S VIEW

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HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

- established in 1968 (as ‘Data Bank’)
- funded by (then) SSRC to provide a service to UK HE sector
- initial focus on academic surveys then government survey data
- still a department of the University, and an umbrella organisation for the provision of data services in the social sciences
- research/development to improve preservation services
UK DATA ARCHIVE: STRATEGIC GOALS

- Promoting best practice in data curation
- Raise standards in research data management
- Raise standards in data security
- Drive archival innovation
- Advance professionalization of data service infrastructures
- Integrate these activities into the UK Data Service

- Operating semi-manual, migration based approach to preservation
SERVICES

- 2003: new distributed service: Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS)
- 2006: ESRC Census Programme starts (distributed Service)
- 2011: launch of Secure Data Service
- 2012: new integrated service: UK Data Service (Universities of Essex, Manchester, Southampton)
UK DATA SERVICE: STRATEGIC GOALS

- Support innovative, policy-relevant research
- Support and improve data skills
- Increase secondary data analysis
- Manage change in attitudes to data access (Open vs. Secure)
- Broaden Collections Development Strategy (new forms of data)
- Deliver high quality social science data
METRIC 3.3.1 THE REPOSITORY SHALL HAVE DEFINED ITS DESIGNATED COMMUNITY AND ASSOCIATED KNOWLEDGE BASE(S) AND SHALL HAVE THESE DEFINITIONS APPROPRIATELY ACCESSIBLE.

- The metric was not satisfied. The PTAB Test Audit Team interpretation of this metric during the UKDA Test Audit was that it required evidence that there was a defined Designated Community for each AIP.
“The UK Data Archive's designated user community is made up of social science and related data users within HE and FE in the UK, though best efforts are made for all users. All users are expected to have a basic understanding of social science methods and techniques relevant to the data collections being accessed.”
Designated Community: An identified group of potential Consumers who should be able to understand a particular set of information. The Designated Community may be composed of multiple user communities. A Designated Community is defined by the Archive and this definition may change over time.

Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) CCSDS 650.0-M-2 Magenta Book June 2012
PLANNING TRIANGLE

Integrating Best Practice, Practical Processes and Technical Solutions

Standard: Control/Metric

Evaluate of Impact Vs Development Overhead

Identify Best Practice or Other Goal

Resolves or Requires Reassessment of

Imply a need to

Identify a Technical Solution

Impact Mitigated by

Identify Impact on Processes

Evaluation of Administrative Overhead vs Benefit to User

UK DATA ARCHIVE
SERVICE VS ARCHIVE

- Archival functions sit within wider Service environment

- Standards applying to the Archival function are not always entirely fit for purpose in that wider environment

- Service encompasses the long-term goals of *some* of the data producers
Without whom…

Herve L’ Hours

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OVERVIEW

• UK Data Archive and UK Data Service
• Reasons, benefits and impact
  • Economic
  • Cultural
  • Research process
  • Access
• Mandates
  • Legislative
  • Organisations (Public/Private)
  • Standards/Trust
• Motivations
  • Personal
  • Cultural
• Research Data (UKDA)
• Designated User Communities
  • Concept and Challenges