Multilingual Web Services
Possibilities and Pitfalls

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Content design

- No ad hoc decisions
- Goals
- Resources
- Target audience
FSD multilingual web services

- Three languages, diverging goals
- Restricted services in Swedish
- English: 80% parallel, study descriptions of quantitative data
- Resources vs benefit
Data archives: priorities for multilingual sites

• Goal: DATA
• Declaration of content provision
• Possible to search data in that language?
• Study descriptions in that language?
• If not, whom to contact?
• Links to main language pages: passive knowledge likely?
Priorities for multilingual sites

- Next stage if found relevant dataset?
- Ordering information
- Information on data translations
- Contact information
- User testing – before launch
Translation

• Another national language vs. foreign language
• Globalisation of content
• Translator aware of objectives
• Process writing
• Interface: using language packs
Web design

- Do design
- Focus on goals
- Internet users are IMPATIENT!
- Why does Google rock?
- Web design templates
- Log files
- Simple to maintain
- URLs – do not use non-universal letters
- Possible to browse without extensive plug-ins
Navigation

- Clarity of navigation – regardless of language
- Switching between languages: language links consistent and visible
- Common practices are the best
- Direct links between languages or link to homepage?
Translation of study descriptions using templates and DDI

- Controlled vocabulary: topic classification (CESSDA), time method, collection mode, research instrument, data kind, analysis unit, nation
- Information that does not change: names of depositors, authors, data collectors; response rate, collection date, time period covered
- Already present in the template: copyright statements, disclaimers, name of the archive (as distributor, access place, production place etc.)
Cross-sectional study
Postal survey
Translation is not the main issue!