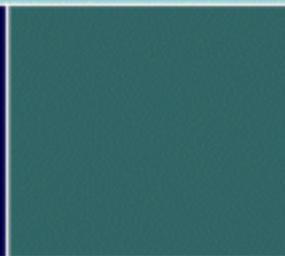
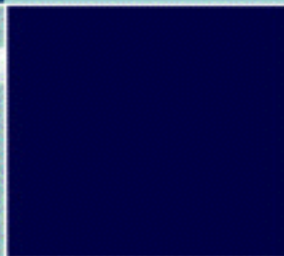


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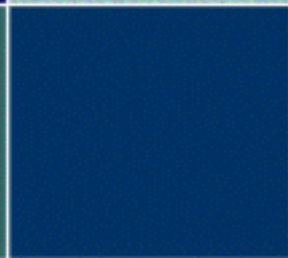
A portal for Danish Research

- some considerations and ideas



Anne Sofie Fink

Danish Data Archives



Outline of the presentation

- Background & Motivation
- Our current “web presence”
- Another perspective
- Three resource fields
- A portal
- Managing a portal
- “Accelerating Access”

About the Danish Data Archives

- Set up 1973 as national data archive for storage of empirical data
- Today part of the States Archives (alongside 6 traditional archives)
- Around 20 employees
- Primary work activities: localisation, data processing and dissemination
- Target group: social science (primarily), history and medical science (separate funding)

Setting the Scene

- The presentation outlines some considerations and ideas motivated by a wish for stronger “web presence”
- In the light of:
 - Our obligations as national data archive to be visible
 - Our wish to play an active role in existing - national - networks of users of empirical data
 - The presence the DDA achieves through existing web communication e.g. the NESSTAR system

Our current “web presence”

Web communication at the moment:

- DDA’s web site
- DDA’s search catalogue
- IDC - *Integrated Data Catalogue*
- NESSTAR

Web site

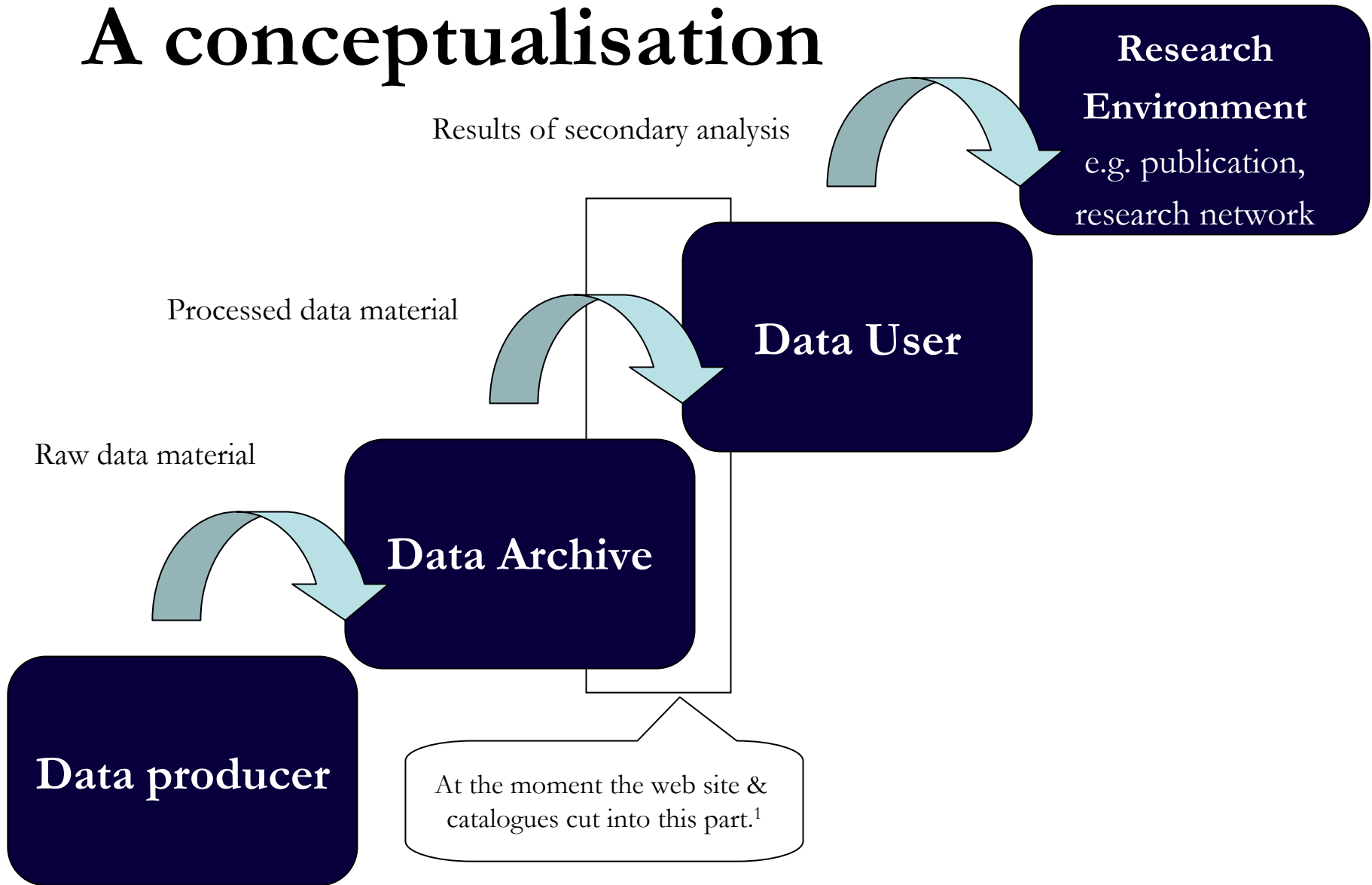
- Content and structure strictly regulated by organisational demands for uniform appearance
- Internal focus only - more about organisational presentation than about information usage externally
- No use of 'change ability' and links to other sites

Search catalogues

- No links to other resources
- Low information content - devoted to search and location of data sets
- Layout & content is 'temporarily static'

One could add that the web site and search catalogues take-off in a simplified 'production line' for a data archive where dissemination is the only part given visibility on www

A conceptualisation



¹ New projects have broader aims than this.

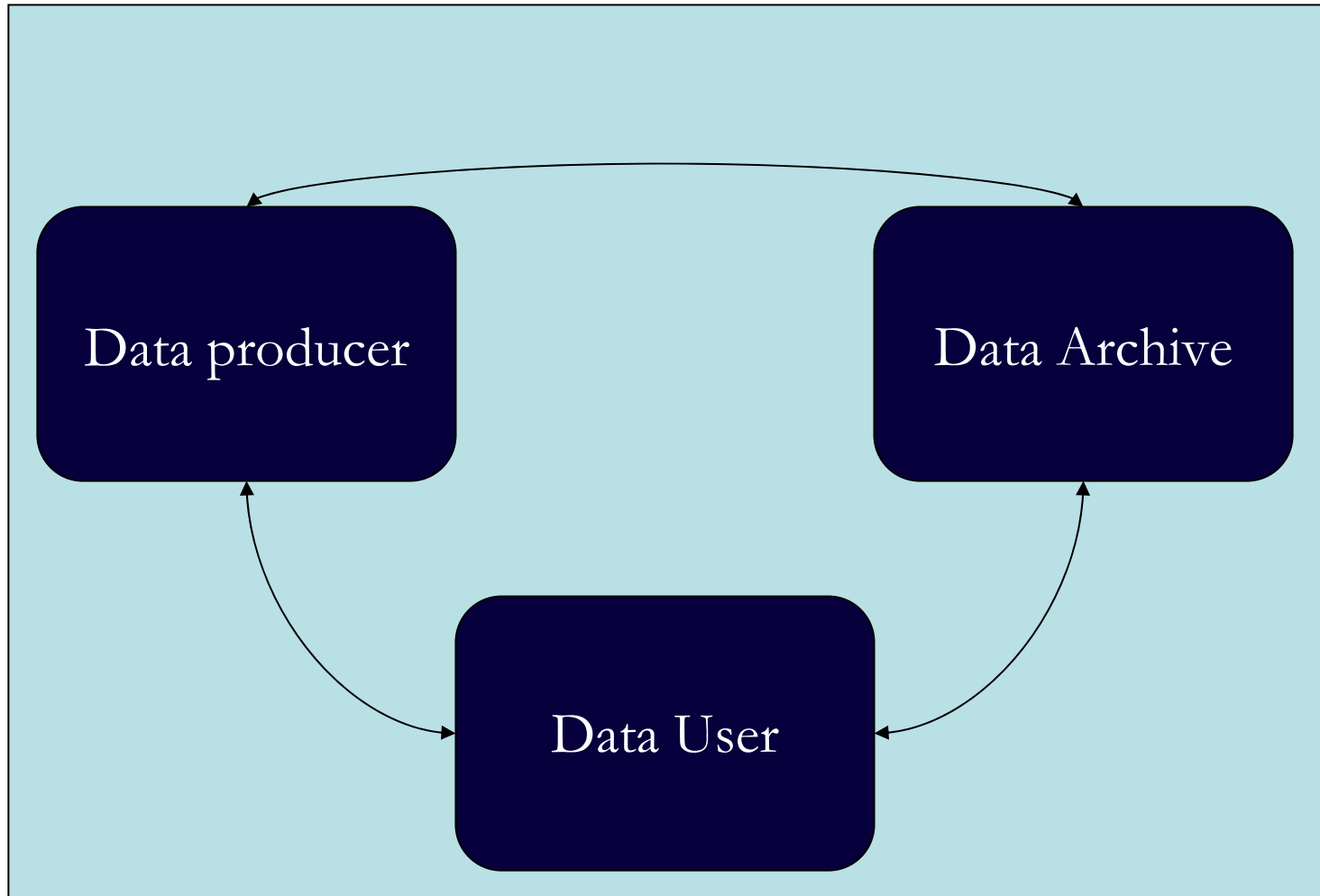
What can be deducted?

- **A variety of actors**
 - but actors who can perform different roles - the producer may become a user, the data archive internalise the user's needs when supplying documentation, etc.
- **A linearity is presupposed**
 - but other arrows could (should) be made since both data sets and communication may be seen to move back and forth
- **Universalistic in scope**
 - but a research environment will be unique in many ways
- **Cuts into the 'travel' performed by a data material**
 - but all parts of the travel are relevant in a data archive perspective

Another perspective

- View the data archive as intermediary between data producers and data users
- Enable flows of communication and data sets among and between actors - data producers, data archives and data users
- Support work processes performed by all actors - data producers, data archives and data users

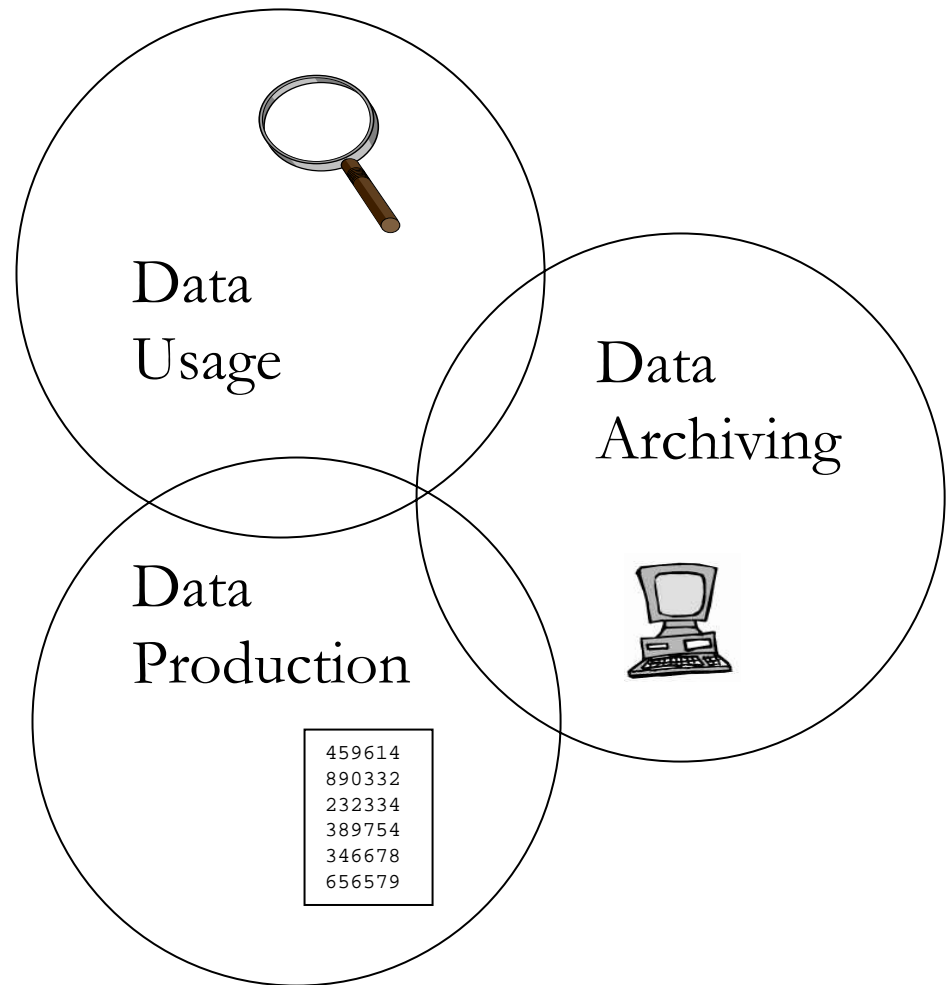
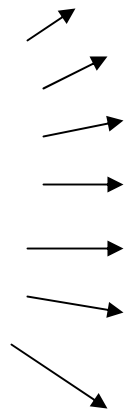
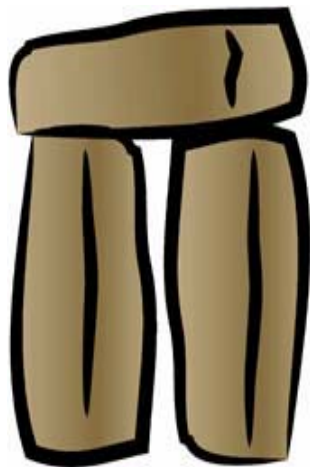
Another conceptualisation



Suggestion to...

- View the network as composed of different overlapping resource fields
 - a field for data production
 - a field for data archival issues
 - a field for data usage
- With the data archive as the gate keeper and organizer of information content

3 overlapping resource fields



A Resource Portal

structured around 3 fields

- Broad coverage of subjects related to use, storage and production of data sets
- Supply an integrated information gate way
- Support non-linear work processes and communication flows
- Reflect the (national) research environment the data archive is part of as an adaptable environment
- Provide an expandable environment - focus on construction of sites separately (e.g. data usage) or a subject across sites (e.g. ethical issues)

A resource field for data usage

- Search of data sets
access to a variety of search engines and evaluation of them by other users
- Search of complementary kinds of information
personal contacts, libraries, data repositories, ...
- Research products
publications, promotion, ...
- Methods and techniques
educational material, discussions, resources, ...
- Issues concerning secondary data analysis
information about legislation, discussions, ...
- Networking
support for personal contacts, mailing lists...
- etc.



A resource field for data archival

- Information on publication of data sets and metadata
- Standards for data processing
- Information about software products
- Data resources (archives) and their services
- Ad hoc activities
e.g. EU-funded corporation projects
- Discussions of standards, archival formats, new initiatives etc.
- Issues concerning secondary data analysis
information about legislation, discussions, ...
- etc.



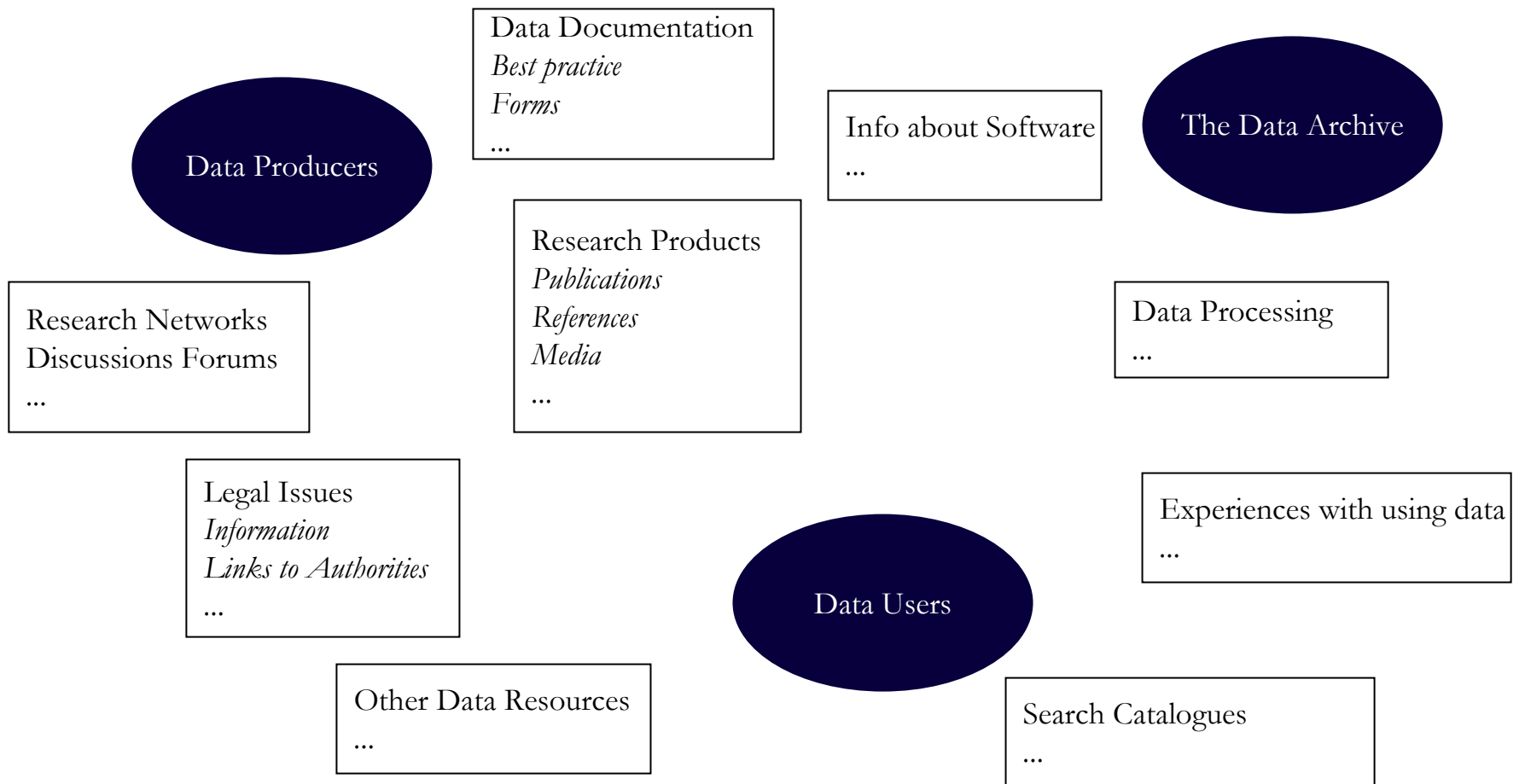
A resource field for data production

- Best practices
documents and discussions
- Interchange of experiences with data collection, documentation, analysis, storage, practise vs. theory etc.
- Issues concerning secondary data analysis
information about legislation, discussions, ...
- Publications based on empirical data
- Information about software packages
- etc.

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A Danish Research Portal

- mirroring the National Research Environment



The figure is an incomplete illustration of the elements of the different sites to be acknowledged by the portal.

Managing a Portal

The portal will be based on links to content provided by the data archive and external sources

- Access to content

Links managed by a portal (web) master

- Content

- Three people will be responsible for each resource field - ideally persons responsible for data usage and production should be ‘outsiders’
- A data archivist will be in charge

- Step by step construction (and reduction!)

- The portal must stay ‘manageable’ to the data archive personnel, that is all information content must be supplied in a well-structured way to users
- The criteria for field content will be made explicit to users of the portal - *what’s there and what’s not?*

“Accelerating Access”

- By supplying a well-structured information gate way with access to a broad range of topics on production, storage and use of data
- By adding to the awareness and use of secondary data in social science and other disciplines
- By giving visibility to the DDA as a competent and experienced organizer of information resources
- By (hopefully) supplying an obvious opening site in web browsers to (national) data users, data archivists and data producers