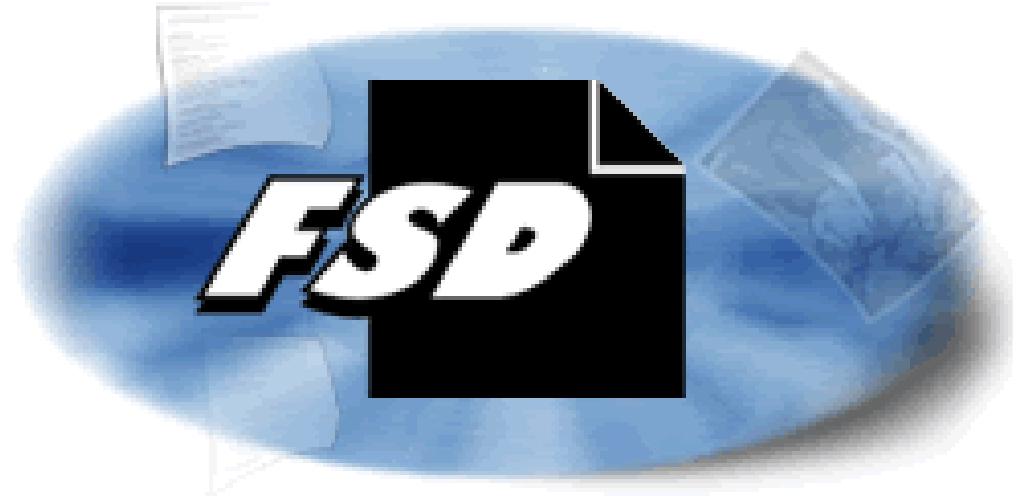


Finnish Social Science Data Archive



Mari Kleemola and Jouni Sivonen:

Learning NESSTAR

IASSIST2001

Amsterdam, May 2001

fsd@uta.fi
<http://www.fsd.uta.fi>

General

- FSD established in 1999
- Fundamental choices:
 - how to document data, which standard to use
 - how to disseminate data
 - how to market FSD

Decisions: documentation

- We chose DDI, because
 - it is new
 - it is XML
 - NESSTAR utilises it
- We do not use all the DDI fields

Creating DDI XML files (1)

- Manually with text editors:
 1. Document description
 2. Study Description
 5. Other Material
- We use a template
- Finished file saved in the data folder and named meFxxxx.xml (xxxx=internal data number)

Creating DDI XML files (2)

- Dataset is checked and saved in SPSS portable format
- NESSTAR compatible xml file is produced by a simple batch file that calls several programs

The Batch File

- First step: NSD's XML Generator is executed
 - ➔ 3. Data Files Description
 - ➔ 4. Variable Description
- Second step: the two XML files are joined together
- Third step: the joint XML file is trimmed

Data to NESSTAR

- DDI compatible metadata checked and validated with the NESSTAR Publisher
- Possible errors corrected
- Files transferred to the NESSTAR server
- Metadata indexed using NESSTAR Publisher Administrator

As a result...

- Study's metadata available for client access via NESSTAR and NESSTAR Light (Alpha 1.1a2)
- FSD provides only one dataset for free download

Problems in the process

- Lack of stable, reasonable priced XML editor
- NESSTAR Publisher does not validate all metadata XML file errors
- Several reindexes needed before the metadata can be accessed via NESSTAR Client
- Scandinavian characters

Marketing FSD and NESSTAR

- Data archiving : new research culture in Finland
- Challenges:
 - to make FSD known
 - to get data deposited
 - to facilitate the re-use of data
- Needed: a powerful and easy tool to disseminate metadata and data

What have we done?

- Extensive web pages
- Bulletin in web: [FSDneWWWs](#)
- Printed bulletin in the autumn
- Visited over 60 university departments and research institutes
- Co-operation with university libraries
- Instructions to install and use NESSTAR in Finnish

Where has it brought us?

- Positive feedback from researchers
- Almost 200 datasets deposited, over 100 datasets delivered
- Finnish researchers interested in NESSTAR and NESSTAR Light:
 - easy to learn
 - effective way to find datasets
- ... but also frustrated :
 - slow, tends to crash down
 - not much data there (yet)

Finally - Obviously

- We continue our work!
- There remains a lot to do both nationally and internationally

There are unvisited departments left!

Contacting researchers one by one

Harmonising the use of DDI

Marketing NESSTAR

Contact Information

**Finnish Social Science
Data Archive**

**FIN-33014
UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE
FINLAND**

**Tel. +358 3 215 8519
Fax +358 3 215 8520**

<http://www.fsd.uta.fi/>

**mari.kleemola@uta.fi
jouni.sivonen@uta.fi**

