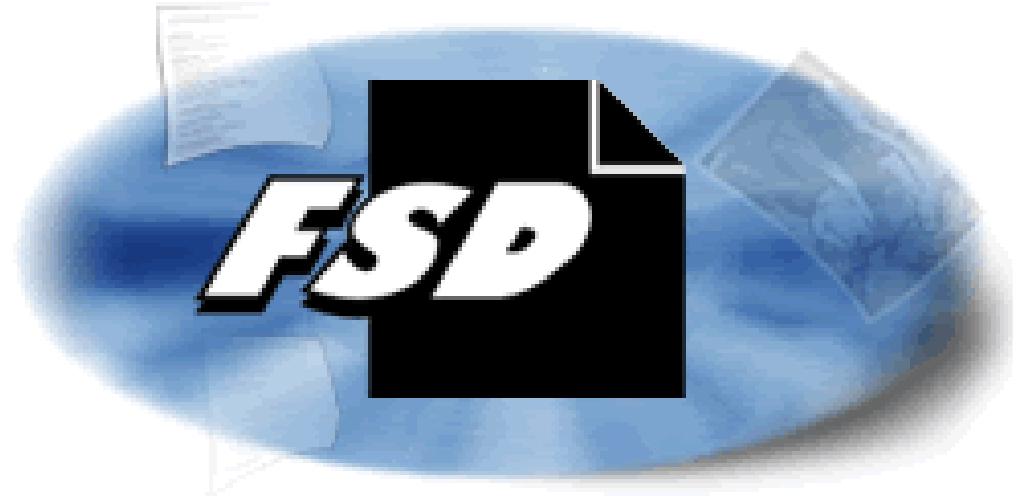


Finnish Social Science Data Archive



Arja Kuula:

# The DDI and Qualitative data

IASSIST2001

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

# Introduction

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- FSD is a national resource centre for social science research and teaching
- started to operate in the beginning of 1999 within the University of Tampere

# Main Functions

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- acquiring and archiving quantitative data
- promoting effective use of quantitative and qualitative data in social sciences
- >>databases for both quantitative and qualitative data

# Qualitative data and the FSD

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- Database for available and reusable qualitative data
- Data itself is not archived in the FSD
- Joint effort between the Finnish Literature Society and the FSD to test the DDI elements to qualitative data

# Qualitative data and the FSD

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- To develop, set and propagate principles of...
  - collecting
  - documenting
  - organising (indexing) and
  - storing of qualitative data

# Extensible Markup Language

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- The DDI standard is based on Extensible Markup Language (XML)
- XML is designed for use on WWW
- XML is hardware and software independent
- Markup is plain text: human readable and easier to preserve than non-text formats
- XML is openly published on the net

# Why the DDI?

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- DDI has been used for describing quantitative data from the very beginning
- DDI is developed for *social science data*
- NESSTAR (international web-based software tool for identifying and locating data)

# The structure of the DDI

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- Hierarchical tree-like structure
- Contains five major components or sections
- Around 300 elements

# Major components

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- 1. The Document Description: describes the metadata document itself
- 2. The Study Description: information of the content and scope of the data
- 3. The Files Description
- 4. The Variables Description
- 5. Other Study-Related Materials

# The DDI and qualitative data

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- Basic philosophy: itemisation and classification
- Around 50 elements suitable for qualitative data
- Lots of elements which need not any special adjustments, (Title, IDNumber, Authoring entity, Other Identifications, Copyright, Depositor, Deposit Date, Bibliographic Citation, Keyword, Topic classification, Abstract, Time Period Covered, Date of Collection etc.)

# Examples

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- Qualitative data catalogue
- Overlapping between elements?  
Producer, Authoring Entity, Data  
Collector
- Too strict itemisation?

# Excerpt..."Data consist of..

- 28 1-hour audio-analogue c-cassettes containing recordings of 15 face to face interviews of social workers about their attitudes towards mothers who have a drug problem. Social workers interviewed were selected from a volunteered group at a national social work conference on 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2000 in Tampere, where this research programme was first introduced. From all the volunteered those were chosen who worked in the capital area, where there already is a considerable drug problem. Interviews were done by five students in the conference area. They were unstructured, but all of them were done by using a predefined topic guide."

# Which elements?

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- 1. Abstract
- 2. Other identifications/acknowledgements
- 3. Characteristics of the Data Collecting Situation
- 4. Date of collection
- 5. Country
- 6. Geographic coverage

# ...some more...

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- 7. Unit of analyses
- 8. Universe
- 9. Kind of Data
- 10. Sampling Procedure
- 11. Mode of Data Collection
- 12. Type of research instrument

# The Immigrant's Life Stories

- An empirical example of the advantages and deficiencies of the DDI

# Deficiencies of the DDI?

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- Processing of (qualitative data), not exact element available now
- Not enough URI-attributes (Sampling Procedure, Type of Research Instrument....)

# Contact Information

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