

Implementing the DDI

A new backoffice system at WSA

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Contents

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Why not use an existing system?

- Didn't fit our requirements
 - Consistent with the Council's system
 - Name, organization, project, publication, post, groups
 - Would imply preparing the metadata ourselves
 - Growing complexity of data
 - Expensive and time consuming
 - Contracts with data producers
 - » They have the knowledge and expertise
 - » **We 'set' quality standards (like DDI)**
 - Strategic choice: outsource construction of metadata
 - 1998: uncertainty on stability of existing systems

Sidestep: Front office (web)

- Go for an existing product
 - Standardize for end-users
 - There are products
 - NESSTAR, ILSES, DAIS ...
- However, ...we have an own front-end
 - To collect experience and knowledge
 - About managing a back office
 - To present results
 - B.O. is not a stand alone system
 - To try out the connection between b.o and web
 - We got it almost for free

Design

- Database for metadata
 - Catalog on the Web
- Order data via the Web
 - Into the B.O system
- Controlling data use (contracts)
 - Administration
- Technical requirements
 - Consistent with the Council's database
 - Sybase, Windows NT
 - XML import and export
- Bi-lingual: NL and UK

DDI

- DDI 1.0 saved us a lot of money at design
 - Fields (and names)
 - Relationships/structure
- Decision to include text fields
 - Robustness
 - Learned from existing front ends
- Variable level
 - Important
 - Tools available
 - Prevent manual work

Practical problems

- DDI is XML oriented
 - We wanted a relational database
 - ‘proven technology’
- DDI concept of Study
 - Labour Force Survey or LFS 1998
 - DDI: studies can refer to themselves
 - We have some bad experiences with entities that refer to themselves (at Council system)
- Some DDI items might be ambiguous

Results

- 2 years and \$ 150.000 later
- 4 main entities
 - Study
 - Owner
 - Document
 - Order

Sort on

Common Abbreviation	Title	Subtitle	Title (NL)	Subtitle (NL)

[General](#) |
 [Contacts](#) |
 [Abstract](#) |
 [Classific.](#) |
 [Study Info](#) |
 [Methodology](#) |
 [Access](#) |
 [Related](#) |
 [Var. Groups](#) |
 [Variables](#) |
 [Data Files](#) |
 [Publicat.](#) |
 [Orders](#) |
 [More](#)

Citation

Title
 Subtitle
 Title (NL)
 Subtitle (NL)
 Common Abbrev.

Data Distribution

Data Distributor
 Date of Deposit

Responsibility

Funding Agency
 Owner
 Original Archive

English
Dutch

Time Period Covered

Time Dimensions

Country

Geographic Unit

Unit of Analysis

Universe

Kind of Data

Related Studies

Title	Title (NL)

+

-

Related Documents

Label	Filename

+

-

Other References Note

English
Dutch

Number	Label	Label (NL)

+
 -
 ▲
 ✓
 ✕

Number

Label

Label (NL)

Subgroup

Topgroup ...

Description

Description (NL)

Variable Group Documentation

+
 -

Name	Label

+
 -
 ▲
 ✓
 ✕

Name

Label

Label (NL)

Variable Group ...

Value Label

Value Label (NL)

Variable Documentation

+
 -

Data Files

Year	Label

Year
 Label
 Label (NL)
 Price €

Data File Documentation

Documentation Label

Data File Variables

Name	Label	Avail.



Order by (Organisation)	Order Date

Sort on Organisation Name ▼

Common Abbreviation	Organisation Name

[General](#) |
 [Studies](#) |
 [Agreements](#) |
 [Secrecy](#) |
 [More](#)

Organisation ...

Common Abbrev.

Department

Address

Telephone

Telefax

Data Set Availability

Data Set availability (NL)

Agreements

Organisation

+
-
▲
✓
✕

Organisation

Note

Secrecy Statements

Person	Organisation

+
-

Sort on

Label	File Name	File Type	Language

General | More

Label
 File Name
 File Path
 URL
 File Type
 Language
 Classification
 Project ...
 Product ...

Description

Description (NL)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, zoom in (+10), zoom out (-10), refresh, and other controls.

Sort on **Organisation Name**

Organisation Name	Order Date

General | **Web Order** | Contacts | Data Files | More

Ordered by

Organisation

Order Date

Admissable

Subscription

Subscription Price €

Note



End of presentation