

# IASSIST/IFDO 2001 Conference

## “A Data Odyssey”

### Session C3

### Digital Archiving

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 16 May 2001

# The Ada Project

Heiko Tjalsma

niwi



# The Ada Project

Archiving Digital Academic  
Heritage

Heiko Tjalsma  
NIWI-Data-archives  
NIWI-Research

NIWI

Amsterdam

The Netherlands

[heiko.tjalsma@niwi.knaw.nl](mailto:heiko.tjalsma@niwi.knaw.nl)

# NIWI Data Archives since 1997

- Since 1964: **STEINMETZ ARCHIVE:**  
Social Science
  
- Since 1991: **NHDA - Netherlands  
Historical Data Archive:** History

# Background

- 1997/1998 two reports on “Academic Digital Heritage”
- NHDA & University Library Leiden
- Paid for by IWI-SURF National Foundation
- National research organisations worried:  
NWO, KNAW

# Main questions

- Who cares for the long-term preservation of “the” digital academic resources of the universities and research institutes ?
- What should be preserved and who should do the appraisal?
- Who should do this long-term preservation be carried out?

# Digital Resources I

- Research data files
- Publications, pre-prints
- Collections (images, multimedia)
- Bibliographical information
- Moderated list servers

# Digital Resources II

- Internet/Intranet pages: CWIS pages
- Computer-aided educational applications
- WWW-educational sites

# Conclusions: categories

- Most interesting categories:
  - research datafiles (administrative etc. data)
  - electronic publications (websites included)
- Varying options:
  - pre-prints
  - list servers
  - e-mail messages

# Conclusions of the earlier reports

## I

- For many categories and disciplines long-term preservation policy missing
- Awareness of the problem is growing
- (Inter)national data archives or comparable specialised institutes preferred

# Conclusions of the earlier reports II

- Appraisal to be carried out by scientists and scholars themselves and historians
- Urgent need for pilot projects

# Appraisal: Two categories

- Category 1: useful for and within a discipline
  - Appraisal by scientists from that discipline and data archivists
- Category 2: of general cultural, historical or scientific interest
  - Appraisal by historians (of science) and data archivists

# ADA-Project 2000-2002

- Financed by IWI-SURF again
- Part of IWI 2000 Tender on Preservation and Archiving
- Finished November 2002

# ADA-Project 2000-2002

- Pilot project: demonstrator project
- Market research
- IT-research
- For NIWI: Feasibility study

# ADA:

## Data-Archiving Services

- Providing long-term archiving on demand
- Service contract
- Service levels
- Different from “traditional” data-archiving

# Case study

- Meertens Institute
- Dialectology, ethnology and onomastics
- Varying data formats, audio files

# Feasibility study

- Technically: Storage - conversion strategy
- Data description: DDDI
- Financially: what price?
- Management: cooperation with other institutes, earlier involvement

# Digital Archiving Projects in the Netherlands

- E-Archiving: University Libraries Utrecht, Delft and Maastricht
- Long-term preservation Websites Dutch Political Parties (University of Groningen)

# Digital Archiving in the Netherlands

- Digital Longevity Program National Archives
- National Library Deposit: National Electronic Deposit Library - DNEP
- Need for a Dutch Digital Preservation Coalition!