Ten years back, five years forward: The Data Seal of Approval

Ingrid Dillo, deputy director DANS
IDCC15, Session Data Perspectives
London, 10 February 2015
Content

- DANS
- What is DSA?
- Experiences and lessons learnt
- The future of DSA
What is DANS?

Institute of Dutch Academy and Research Funding Organisation (KNAW & NWO) since 2005

Mission: promote and provide permanent access to digital research information

First predecessor dates back to 1964 (Steinmetz Foundation), Historical Data Archive 1989
Our services

EASY: Electronic Archiving System for self-deposit

New service from May 1st onward: Dutch Dataverse

NARCIS: Gateway to scholarly information in the Netherlands
Our Services

Data Management Plans

1. Preparation of the data collection project
2. Implementation of the data collection project
3. Archiving data and making data available

http://www.dans.knaw.nl/content/categorieen/diensten/data-management-plan
**DSA: key characteristics**

- Initiated in 2005 by DANS, international Board since 2009 (37 seals awarded, 35 on the way)
- Basic standard: 16 guidelines
- Self-assessment, no external auditors or site visit
- Peer-reviewed process supervised by DSA Board
- DSA granted for a period of 2 years
- Online tool for self-assessment and review
- Transparency and inclusiveness
DSA: the principles

The research data:

- can be found on the Internet
- are accessible (clear rights and licenses)
- are in a usable format (interoperable)
- are reliable
- can be referred to (persistent identifier)
Responsibility: the DSA focus

The DSA focus is on the Repository as enabler of good Data Producer and Data Consumer practice

A data repository is designated a *Trusted Digital Repository* if:

- It enables Data Producers to adhere to Guidelines 1-3
- It meets guidelines 4-13
- It enables Data Consumers to adhere to Guidelines 14-16
Compliance

• Minimum level of compliance for each guideline

• Must be met to receive the DSA

• Compliance levels will be evaluated and will increase as:
  • Best practices emerge
  • Compliant tools become available
  • Implementation occurs

  \[\rightarrow\text{ work in progress}\]
Evidence

- Transparency
- Link to publicly available documentation
  - or deadline for public release
- English or short summary in English
Guidelines data producers

1. The data producer deposits the data in a data repository with sufficient information for others to assess the quality of the data and compliance with disciplinary and ethical norms.

2. The data producer provides the data in formats recommended by the data repository.

3. The data producer provides the data together with the metadata requested by the data repository.
Guidelines data repositories

4. The data repository has **an explicit mission** in the area of digital archiving and promulgates it.

5. The data repository uses **due diligence** to ensure compliance with legal regulations and contracts including, when applicable, regulations governing the protection of human subjects.

6. The data repository applies **documented processes and procedures** for managing data storage.

7. The data repository has a **plan for long-term preservation** of its digital assets.

8. Archiving takes place according to **explicit work flows** across the data life cycle.
Guidelines data repositories

9. The data repository assumes **responsibility** from the data producers for access and availability of the digital objects.

10. The data repository enables the users to discover and use the data and refer to them in a **persistent** way.

11. The data repository **ensures the integrity** of the digital objects and the metadata.

12. The data repository **ensures the authenticity** of the digital objects and the metadata.

13. The **technical infrastructure** explicitly supports the tasks and functions described in internationally accepted archival standards like OAIS.
Guidelines data consumers

• 14. The data consumer **complies with access regulations** set by the data repository.

• 15. The data consumer conforms to and **agrees with any codes of conduct** that are generally accepted in the relevant sector for the exchange and proper use of knowledge and information.

• 16. The data consumer **respects the applicable licences** of the data repository regarding the use of the data.
Experiences: the development of DSA

- Organic, slow but steady, growth
- Pace of growth is rising (ERICs, EC projects)
- Growing geographical spread, European focus
- Growing disciplinary spread, SSH focus
- Clear demand for a basic certification standard
Experiences: the development of DSA

**DSA characteristics**: community based, no legal entity, no formally deposited or protected standard

- **Pro**: agile, flexible, pragmatic

- **Con**: voluntary basis and lack of structural funding has consequences for e.g. reviewing and training efforts
Experiences: investment in time and money

Time:
• Collecting documentation, or properly describing policies, processes, etc., or developing missing policies, processes, infrastructural elements, etc...
• Typically 2-3 months
• Depending on your level of entry

Money:
• DSA is free of charges
• All information is available on the web
Experiences: the benefits

- Stakeholder confidence
- Improvement in communication
- Improvement in processes
- Transparency
- Differentiation from others
- Less labor- and time-intensive

The future of DSA

- Alignment with ICSU/WDS accreditation

- Increasing interest in DSA:
  - In Europe: ERICs and EC projects
  - EC and national funders – Open Access policy data, RDM requirements, long term accessibility of data, trustworthy digital repositories

- Further professionalization of DSA is needed to enable its community to continue to grow
Data Archiving and Networked Services

The work DANS does summarized in a 4 minute video, introduced by Neelie Kroes

http://youtu.be/HJbo-OAaJ1I

Thank you for your attention

ingrid.dillo@dans.knaw.nl
www.dans.knaw.nl
http://datasealofapproval.org/en/

DANS is een instituut van KNAW en NWO