

The GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences

A widely recognised data archive
on its way towards a new level of
trustworthiness

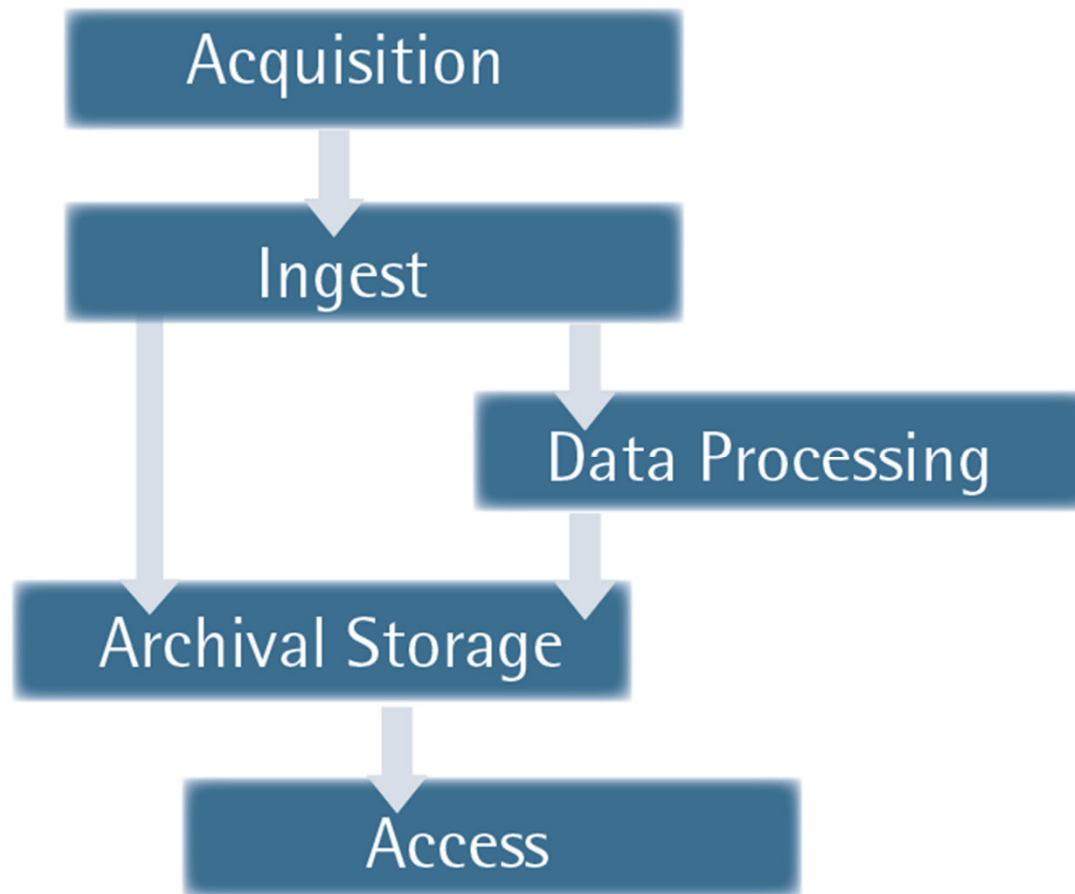
GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

- Infrastructure institution for the Social Sciences
- GESIS provides services in the fields of
 - Data: archiving, research, social monitoring
 - Methodology: consultation, developing complex methods
 - Information: social science literature and research activities

Data Archive: Mission and Objectives

- Explicit mission: archiving social science research data
- Purpose of the GESIS Data Archive is to keep social science research data available for data sharing and data re-use
- International data exchange (CESSDA, IFDO)

Archiving Workflow



16.01.2013

IDCC 2013

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Traditional scope of our work

- Concentration on domain specific aspects: strong expertise in curating empirical social research data
- Well-integrated into a network of European and international social science archives
- But: Until recently the archive had not perceived itself as part of the digital preservation community

Expanding our focus

- Becoming an active player in the dp community
- Involvement in initiatives and communities:
 - persistent identifiers
 - metadata standards
 - linked data
 - nestor partner

Trustworthiness

- Ensuring stakeholders that the data they are using, producing or funding is treated according to established standards and norms
- Need to prove trustworthiness is not only an issue for new players but also for established ones like the GESIS Data Archive

European Framework for Audit and Certification

- CCSDS/ISO Repository Audit and Certification Working Group (RAC)
- Data Seal of Approval (DSA)
- DIN/nestor Working Group “Trustworthy Archives – Certification”

signed a Memorandum of Understanding

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
TO CREATE A
EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION OF DIGITAL
REPOSITORIES**

THIS AGREEMENT is made between:

- David Giaretta in his capacity as chair of the CCSDS/ISO Repository Audit and Certification Working Group (RAC),
- Henk Harmsen in his capacity as Chair of the Data Seal of Approval (DSA) Board and
- Christian Keitel in his capacity as Chair of the DIN Working Group "Trustworthy Archives – Certification"

WHEREAS the parties to this Memorandum of Understanding all lead separate groups aiming at certifying digital repositories, they wish to put in place mechanisms to ensure that the groups can collaborate in setting up an integrated framework for auditing and certifying digital repositories.


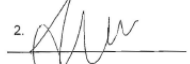
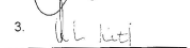
The framework will consist of a sequence of three levels, in increasing trustworthiness:

This process is supported by and coordinated with the help of the European Commission.

DURATION OF THIS AGREEMENT:

This agreement shall commence upon the signing of this agreement by all the parties and will end on mutual agreement of the parties.

SIGNED on behalf of the parties by:

1. 
2. 
3. 

David Giaretta date: 8/7/2010
Henk Harmsen date: 8-7-2010
Christian Keitel date: 8/7/2010

The framework will consist of a sequence of three levels, in increasing trustworthiness:

- **BASIC CERTIFICATION** is granted to repositories which obtain DSA certification;
- **EXTENDED CERTIFICATION** is granted to Basic Certification repositories which in addition perform a structured, externally reviewed and publicly available self-audit based on ISO 16363 or DIN 31644;
- **FORMAL CERTIFICATION** is granted to repositories which in addition to Basic Certification obtain full external audit and certification based on ISO 16363 or equivalent DIN 31644.

How to begin

- Apply for the DSA
- Create compilation of available documentations:
 - workflows
 - policies
 - internal and external standards etc.
- Check these against requirements
- Create missing or improve existing documentations

Example: Preservation policy

- A central activity in the process so far: formulating a preservation policy
- Challenge: provide enough information without becoming too detailed as the policy should not be changed frequently
- The process includes and stimulates basic discussions within the organisation

Beyond technical aspects...

Keeping a functioning system running while adapting it to new requirements is a balancing act.

Staff members...

- are used to work within the existing setting
- need to be convinced of the positive aspects associated with changed standards and workflows
- should be involved in the whole process to utilise their expertise and to ensure successful implementation

Transparency

- Changed perception regarding the importance of transparency
- Increasing and legitimate external demand for comprehensible information on how we ensure integrity and accessibility of our holdings for the long term

Benefits

- Awareness of the capabilities, strengths and, most importantly, weaknesses or gaps
- May lead to quality improvements in workflows and services
- Valuable effect of establishing a common understanding for the mission and goals of an institution
- Ensure fulfillment of the requirements of being a trusted digital repository and display this to the public

Data Seal of Approval

- Self-assessment approach
- Low-threshold and lightweight alternative to a regular certification
- Helpful for digital repositories that may not have the resources for a time and cost intensive ISO or DIN certification
- Good starting point for more advanced certification steps within the European Framework for Audit and Certification
- Openness takes into account the diversity of existing repositories and archives
- Strong support by DSA

The openness of the DSA approach especially forces institutions to reflect, interpret, or develop their own understanding of mission, roles, workflows and services.



Any questions?

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