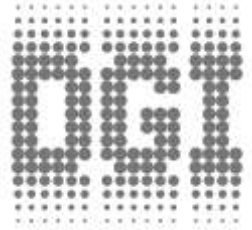


# 1. DGI-Konferenz, 62. DGI Jahrestagung

Semantic Web & Linked Data

Elemente zukünftiger Informationsinfrastrukturen



## Challenges and Opportunities in Social Science Research Data Management

Stefan Kramer

Research Data Management Librarian

Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research

# What is CISER?



Cornell University  
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research

## What is CISER?

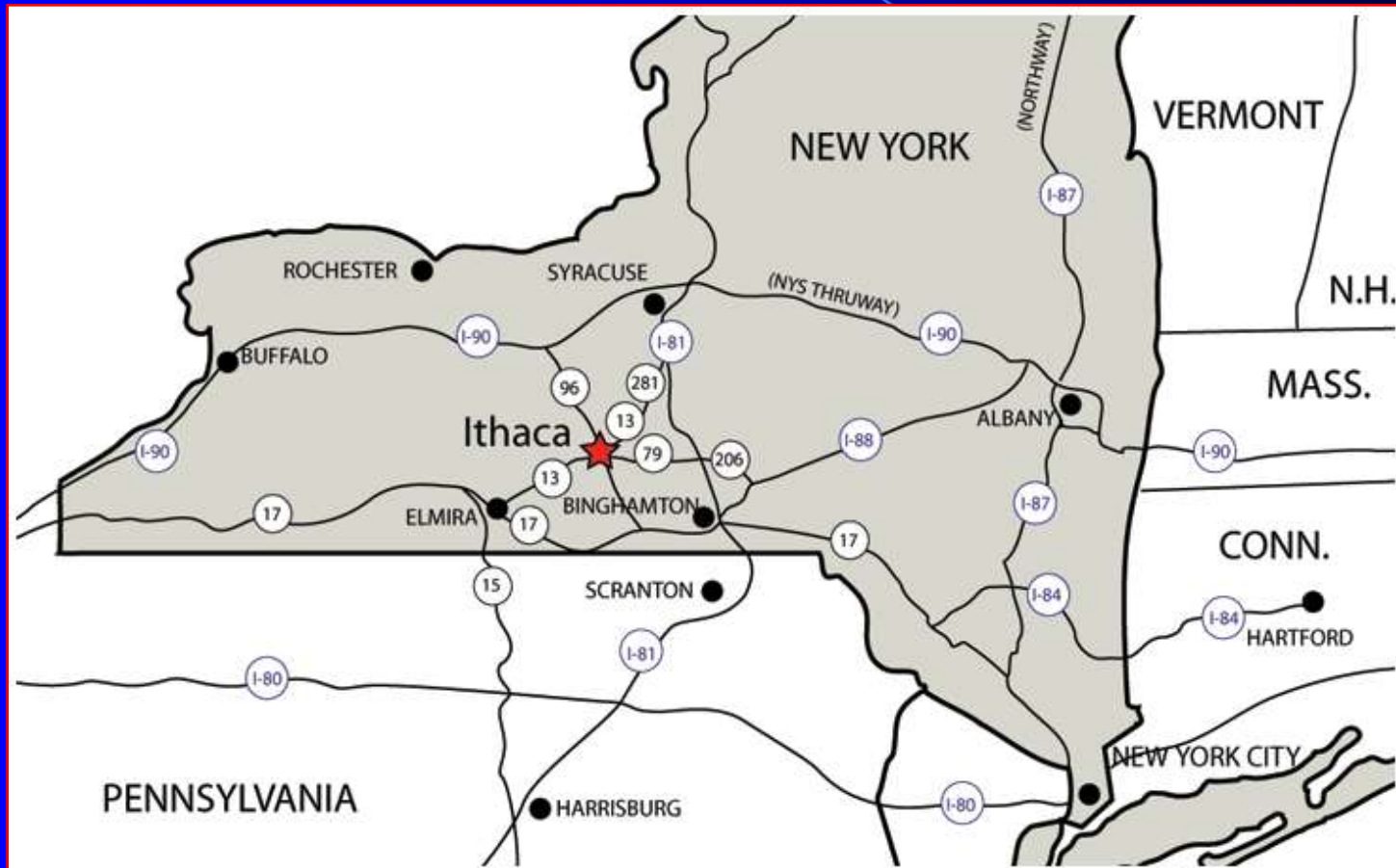
The Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research was founded in 1981. Our mission is to anticipate and support the evolving computational and data needs of Cornell social scientists and economists throughout the entire research process and data life cycle.

More at:

[http://ciser.cornell.edu/About\\_CISER.shtml](http://ciser.cornell.edu/About_CISER.shtml)



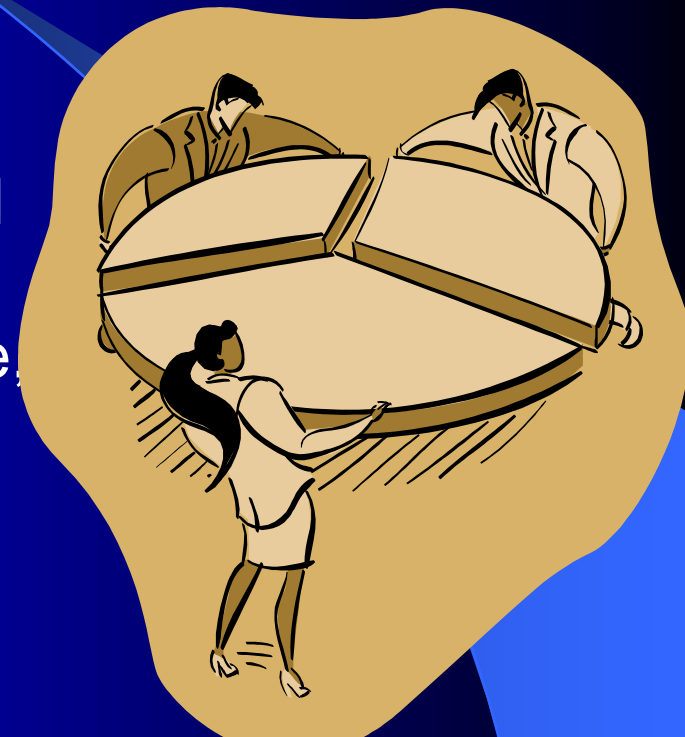
# Where is Cornell University?



Source: <http://www.cornell.edu/maps/state.cfm>

# Sharing & preserving data: why (would researchers want to)?

- Collaboration with fellow researchers on current projects
- Future use/access by others (public/limited, open/restricted) and self
- Making research findings replicable help avoid duplication
- Requirements from funding agencies, journal publishers, own institution
- May help in tenure/promotion process
- Making research data citable



**Bibliographic Citation:** Hofferbert, Richard I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC, PUBLIC POLICY, AND POLITICAL DATA FOR THE UNITED STATES, 1890-1960 [Computer file]. Conducted by Cornell University Center for International Studies. ICPSR ed. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [producer and distributor], 1972. doi:10.3886/ICPSR00015

**(Why cite the data?)**

# Some potential problems with *own* data (that's not (well) managed) for researchers

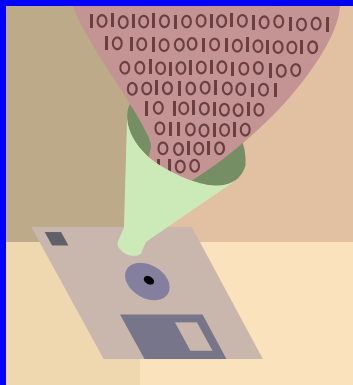


Where is it?



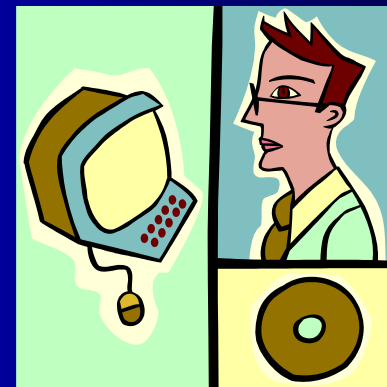
How safe is it, where(ever) it is?

Can my computer and software still read/open/use it?



Hmm, what format were those files in again?

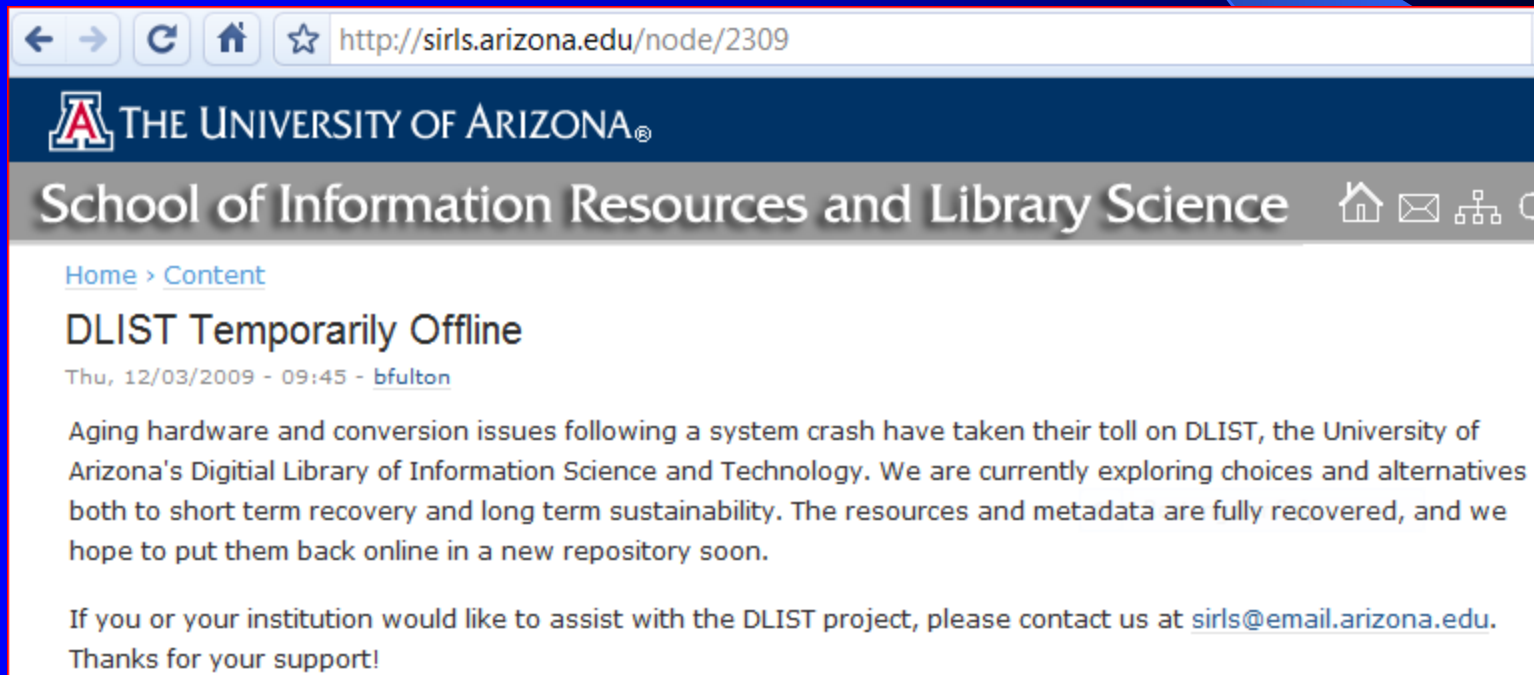
(How) can/may I give it to someone else?



Where is the graduate assistant who organized, analyzed, ... the data now?

# Working with faculty to deposit data

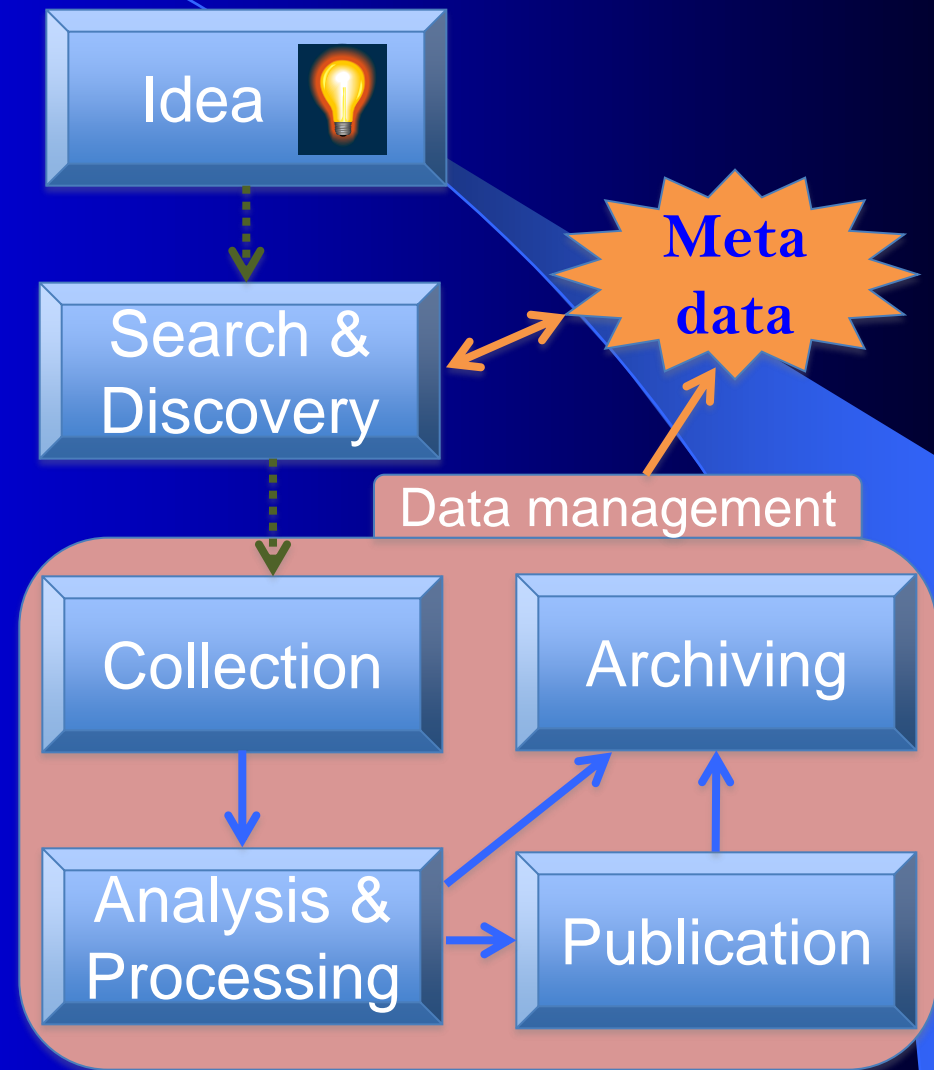
- In local/institutional AND domain/subject repositories ...  
e.g. [eCommons@Cornell](#) AND [ICPSR](#)
- Domain/subject repositories are not infallible, so institutional repositories provide a “backup” too



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing the URL <http://sirls.arizona.edu/node/2309>. The page header includes the University of Arizona logo and the text "THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®" and "School of Information Resources and Library Science". The main content area displays a message titled "DLIST Temporarily Offline" dated "Thu, 12/03/2009 - 09:45 - bfulton". The message text reads: "Aging hardware and conversion issues following a system crash have taken their toll on DLIST, the University of Arizona's Digital Library of Information Science and Technology. We are currently exploring choices and alternatives both to short term recovery and long term sustainability. The resources and metadata are fully recovered, and we hope to put them back online in a new repository soon." It concludes with contact information: "If you or your institution would like to assist with the DLIST project, please contact us at [sirls@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sirls@email.arizona.edu). Thanks for your support!"

# The lifecycle of research data

- Creation, (re)use and discovery of research data often follows a predictable flow
- Supporting this flow with integrated tools and services can make social science research based on data more efficient and effective



Source:

<http://hdl.handle.net/1813/17472>



# Example: enhancing search & discovery stage of research data lifecycle

<http://yufind.library.yale.edu/yufind/>

Library of Congress >> MARC >> Bibliographic >> 008 >> 008 (Computer Files)

### 008 - Computer Files (NR)

MARC 21 Bibliographic - Full

Indicators and Subfield Codes  
Field has no indicators or subfield codes; the data elements are positionally defined.

Character Positions

18-21 - Undefined (006/01-04)	27 - Undefined (006/05-08)
22 - Target audience (006/05)	28 - Government publication (006/09)
# - Unknown or not specified	# - Not a government publication
a - Preschool	a - Autonomous or semi-autonomous
b - Primary	c - Multilocal
c - Pre-adolescent	f - Federal/national
d - Adolescent	i - International intergovernmental
e - Adult	l - Local
f - Specialized	m - Multistate
g - General	o - Government publication
j - Juvenile	s - State, provincial, territorial
- No attempt to code	u - Unknown if item is a government publication
z - Other	- No attempt to code

23-25 - Undefined (006/06-08)	29-34 - Undefined (006/09-12)
26 - Type of computer file (006/09)	
a - Numeric data	
b - Computer program	
c - Representational	

Source: <http://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/bd008c.html>

Yale University Library yufind BETA search the library's catalog

Home Search: Primary Election primary election

Showing 1 - 20 of 449 for primary election

Did you mean: primary education, primary prevention

**Narrow Search Results**

**Author**

- Coleman, Kevin J. (5)
- Davis, James W., 1920- (4)
- Cook, Rhodes, 1948- (3)
- Gorman, Joseph B. (3)
- Buckalew, Charles Rollin, 1821-1899. (2)
- more ...

**Format**

- Electronic (off-line) (183)
- Books/Pamphlets (179)
- Journals/Magazines/Newspapers (41)
- Microforms (35)
- Video (8)
- more ...

**Language**

- English (183)

**Yes we can? : white racial framing and the 2008 presidential campaign /**  
by Wingfield, Adia Harvey, 1977- Published 2010  
**Call Number:** E906 .W56X 2010 (LC)  
**Located:** LSF- click "Place Requests" for delivery to any Yale library  
Not Checked Out  
Books/Pamphlets

**The Voting Rights Act of 1965 /**  
by Hillstrom, Laurie Collier, 1965- Published 2009  
**Call Number:** JK1924 .H55X 2009 (LC)  
**Located:** SML, Stacks, LC Classification  
Not Checked Out  
Books/Pamphlets



# Search/browse functions for numeric data in social sciences

Not (easily) offered by most search systems, incl. library catalogs, but often needed by data searchers, in addition to topic:

Time span (example: 1970-present)

Time frequency (example: annually)

Geographic extent (example: all of United States)

Geographic granularity (example: county level)

The screenshot shows the StatCat Statistical Data Finder interface. At the top, it says 'StatCat Statistical Data Finder'. Below that, there are navigation links: 'Simple Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Help Searching StatCat', 'Help Using Data', and 'About StatCat'. The search results section shows 'Search results (9 items)'. The first result is for 'New Democracies Barometer III (1993-94)' by the 'Centre for the Study of Public Policy'. It lists holdings available on 'Statlab Server' and 'all holdings'. The abstract describes the survey as data from the third New Europe Barometer. The series name is 'New Democracies Barometer'. The series information states that the Centre for the Study of Public Policy and the Paul Lazarsfeld Society, Vienna, cooperated in launching a major multi-national survey, the New Democracies Barometer (NDB), to monitor the response of people caught up in the transformation of their polity, economy, society and often state boundaries too. Five NDB surveys were conducted between 1991 and 1998. Changes in Europe have been matched by changes in the New Europe Barometer survey. After the fifth round, the CSPP took responsibility for conducting surveys of post-Communist countries seeking membership in the European Union. It has conducted NEB rounds in 2001 and the winter of 2004/5. Related publications include 'DIVERGING PATHS OF POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES: NEW EUROPE BAROMETER TRENDS SINCE 1991 - http://ssrs.yale.edu/data/SSDA/CSPP/SPP418.pdf'. The producer is the Centre for the Study of Public Policy, the date produced is 1994, and the geographic coverage includes Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Belarus, and Ukraine. The place of production is Aberdeen, Scotland.

Title:	New Democracies Barometer III (1993-94)
Author:	Centre for the Study of Public Policy
Holdings available on:	[ <a href="#">Statlab Server</a> ] [ <a href="#">all holdings</a> ]
Abstract:	Data from the third New Europe Barometer, described at <a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cspp/nebo.shtml">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cspp/nebo.shtml</a> .
Series name:	New Democracies Barometer
Series information:	"The Centre for the Study of Public Policy and the Paul Lazarsfeld Society, Vienna, cooperated in launching a major multi-national survey, the New Democracies Barometer (NDB), to monitor the response of people caught up in the transformation of their polity, economy, society and often state boundaries too. Five NDB surveys were conducted between 1991 and 1998. Changes in Europe have been matched by changes in the New Europe Barometer survey. After the fifth round, the CSPP took responsibility for conducting surveys of post-Communist countries seeking membership in the European Union. It has conducted NEB rounds in 2001 and the winter of 2004/5."
Related publications:	DIVERGING PATHS OF POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES: NEW EUROPE BAROMETER TRENDS SINCE 1991 - <a href="http://ssrs.yale.edu/data/SSDA/CSPP/SPP418.pdf">http://ssrs.yale.edu/data/SSDA/CSPP/SPP418.pdf</a>
Producer:	Centre for the Study of Public Policy
Date produced:	1994
Geographic coverage:	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Belarus, Ukraine
Place of production:	Aberdeen, Scotland

# Researchers and metadata creation/maintenance

- Researchers will tend to describe their data as much as necessary for their own use, for current project
- But no one knows their data better than they do
- Needed: easy-to-use tools, and outreach to researchers, for long-term access and preservation – some actions to be performed by researchers, others by institutional data service providers



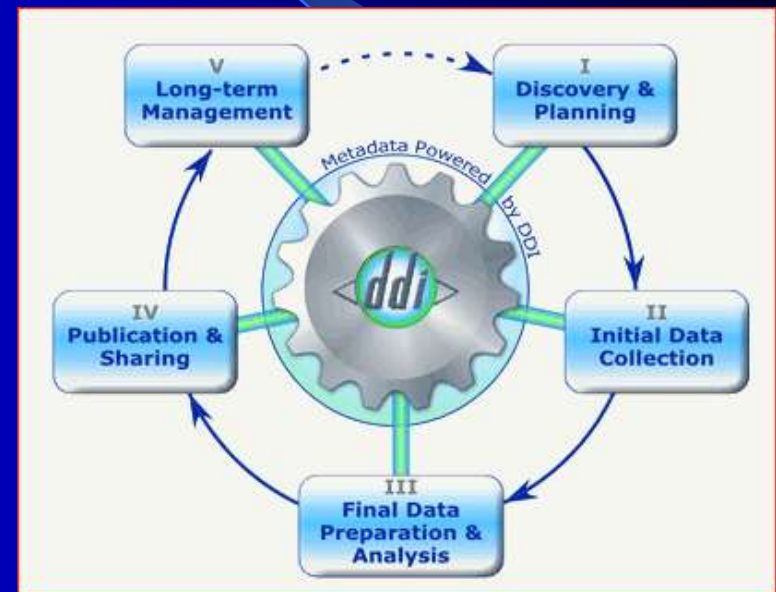
Increase the  
**REACH**  
of Your Data

A vertical graphic with a blue and white color scheme. At the top, the text 'Increase the REACH of Your Data' is written in a serif font. Below this is a glowing globe of the Earth, surrounded by white data lines and circular orbits. At the bottom, a hand is shown holding the globe from below. The text 'The Data Documentation Initiative' and the website 'www.ddialliance.org' are written in a sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the logo '<ddi>' is displayed in a stylized font.

The Data Documentation  
Initiative  
[www.ddialliance.org](http://www.ddialliance.org)  
<ddi>

# Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)

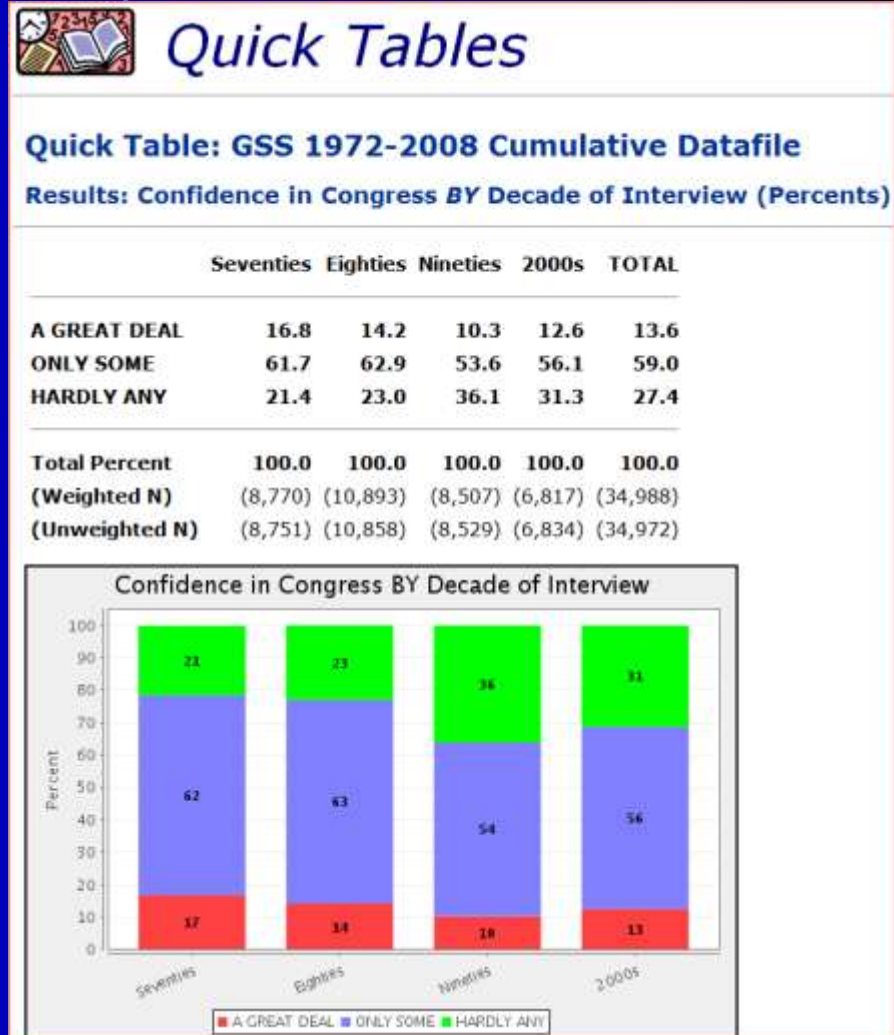
- Earlier versions of DDI focused on *codebooks* – the “manual” for datasets
- DDI 3 designed to support the data lifecycle with metadata
- Powerful – but also complex! Used by national statistical agencies, data archives, etc.
- Tools for using DDI being developed – choosing the right ones for specific institutional needs is going to be key



Source: <http://www.ddialliance.org/>

# Making research data available for web-based analysis

- Most repository platforms make content, incl. datasets, available for *downloading*
- But for many audiences, such as introductory methodology classes or “the public,” analysis of downloaded data is asking too much (lacking software or skills)
- Possible solution: web-based analysis, exploration, visualization of *locally* created data, e.g. through [Berkeley SDA](http://sda.berkeley.edu) or [Google Fusion Tables](http://fusiontables.google.com)



# Linking of research data with papers, articles, dissertations, etc.

- Data is one “raw material” behind published research
- Bidirectional links between research results and research data would enhance discovery of *both*

<b>Title:</b>	Longitudinal studies on the causes of obesity: The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health
<b>Author(s):</b>	<a href="#">Gordon-Larsen, P.</a>
<b>Conference/Meeting Name:</b>	Cornell University College of Human Ecology
<b>Conference/Meeting Date:</b>	2005
<b>Conference/Meeting Sponsor:</b>	Cornell University College of Human Ecology
<b>Place of Conference/Meeting:</b>	Ithaca, NY
<b>Related Studies</b>	
This publication is related to the following ICPSR dataset(s):	
• <a href="#">National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), 1994-2002 (ICPSR 21600)</a>	

From ICPSR's Bibliography of Data-Related Literature  
(<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/citations/>)



# A few other issues in research data management and dissemination:

- Policies for data submission and dissemination - privacy, human subjects protection
- Ownership of datasets – does researcher, university, funding agency, ... own?
  - What if datasets from multiple sources are merged/joined?
- Versioning and derivatives -
  - Keep every version of a dataset (one with originally collected information, next with added recoded/computed variables, etc.)?
  - Keep original dataset file (e.g., Microsoft Access from phone interview), also files generated from that (e.g., Stata for statistical analyses, etc.)?
- Capturing the data's transformation, analysis, and analysis output
  - Relationships of data, command/syntax, and output files



# Linking of research data with papers, articles, dissertations, etc.

- Data is one “raw material” behind published research
- Bidirectional links between research results and research data would enhance discovery of *both* – finding publications could help find data and vice versa
- Challenge: creating and maintaining these links

<b>Title:</b>	Longitudinal studies on the causes of obesity: The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health
<b>Author(s):</b>	<a href="#">Gordon-Larsen, P.</a>
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From ICPSR's Bibliography of Data-Related Literature  
(<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/citations/>)

Thank you for your time & attention!



Stefan Kramer

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<http://www.linkedin.com/in/kramerstefan>