SowiDataNet - A User-Driven Repository for Data Sharing and Centralizing Research Data from the Social and Economic Sciences in Germany

Monika Linne, 30 June 2016
SowiDataNet Initiative – who we are

New infrastructure for archiving and distribution of quantitative research data of the social and economic sciences:

- **gesis** (Project lead)
- **ZBW** (Leibniz-Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung Berlin)
- **WZB** (Berlin Social Science Center)
- **DIW Berlin** (German Institute for Economic Research)

**Main Focus on Infrastructure**

**Main Focus on Research**

Funded by **Leibniz Association**
Excursion: 
**Current Data Sharing Situation in Germany**

- In 1998, the German Research Foundation demanded: "Primary data as the basis for publications shall be securely stored for ten years in a durable form in the institution of their origin" (German Research Foundation, 1998)
- 18 years later researchers in Germany are still very reluctant when it comes to data sharing
- Most academic institutions have neither a research data policy nor an appropriate data infrastructure
- Funders and journals increasingly request data publication
- Scattered, unstandardized data archiving in different organizations, repositories, research data centers
- No central search and archiving portal (data is hard to find, efficient reuse is hampered)
SowiDataNet: Purpose

- Providing a research data infrastructure for organizations, individual researchers and journals
- Bringing together research data from different sources and data providers
- SowiDataNet ensures safe data storage and a central access to data
- Establish a data sharing mentality in Germany
- Reduce reluctance of data sharing by:
  - Making data sharing as easy and attractive as possible
  - Enhancing knowledge about data management
Target Group

Organizations without own research data infrastructure

SowiDataNet

Organizations with own research data infrastructure

Research data centers

Individual researchers & journals
SowiDataNet: Features

- Flexible data access rights (data provider keeps full data control)
- Persistent DOI registration for data citation
- Bit stream preservation
- Storage for at least 10 years
- Workshops for institutional curation experts
- Metadata standards, such as Dublin Core and DataCite are applied for better traceability and accessibility
- Modular system (future extension by other disciplines possible)
- Special features for academic institutions
SowiDataNet for Institutions

Institutions without data infrastructure need a repository for their research data:

- Interface-based usage of SowiDataNet on institutional websites (corporate design)
- Since the quality of data documentation has an effect on the institutional reputation, the data is double reviewed
- Institutional and GESIS curator necessary for support and review
- Standardized review provided by checklists, including mandatory fields (data protection regulations)
SowiDataNet – Double-Review

A General checklist
I.  Technical check
II. License- and copyrights
III. Data protection rights
IV. Classification by topic
V.  Conclusion

B Content-related checklist
I. Data entry (data formats, etc.)
II. Special checks (weighting correct?)
III. Accompanying material
IV. Meta data check
V.  Etc.
SowiDataNet – Institutional View

- Customized view – all documented projects will be displayed as an institutional collection in the institutional corporate design
- By this the attractiveness of SowiDataNet may be increased for institutions without an own infrastructure (institutional data library)
- Users can conveniently browse institutional collections
- Once established, institutional researchers may be motivated and upload their data for better visibility and inner-institutional reputation
SowiDataNet – Versioning

- Data curator is responsible for versioning (three-digit version number X.X.X.)
- Institutional curators will be supported by providing a versioning guide to them
- Versioning will be applied for any changes to the documents
- With each new version number the project receives a new DOI
- DOIs of older Versions will have a reference that there are newer Versions available
www.sowidatanet.de
How can SowiDataNet counteract?

- Comprehensive requirements analysis
- Community driven implementation of a convenient documentation tool
- Low barriers enhance the acceptance of SowiDataNet
- Good instructions for data providers
- Contact person (curator) for questions
- Customized/ local usage for scientific organizations with corporate design

→ SowiDataNet is open to all researchers and scientific organizations from the Social and Economic Sciences