

What Researchers Want...

...From a Resource Discovery Service for
OS Microdata

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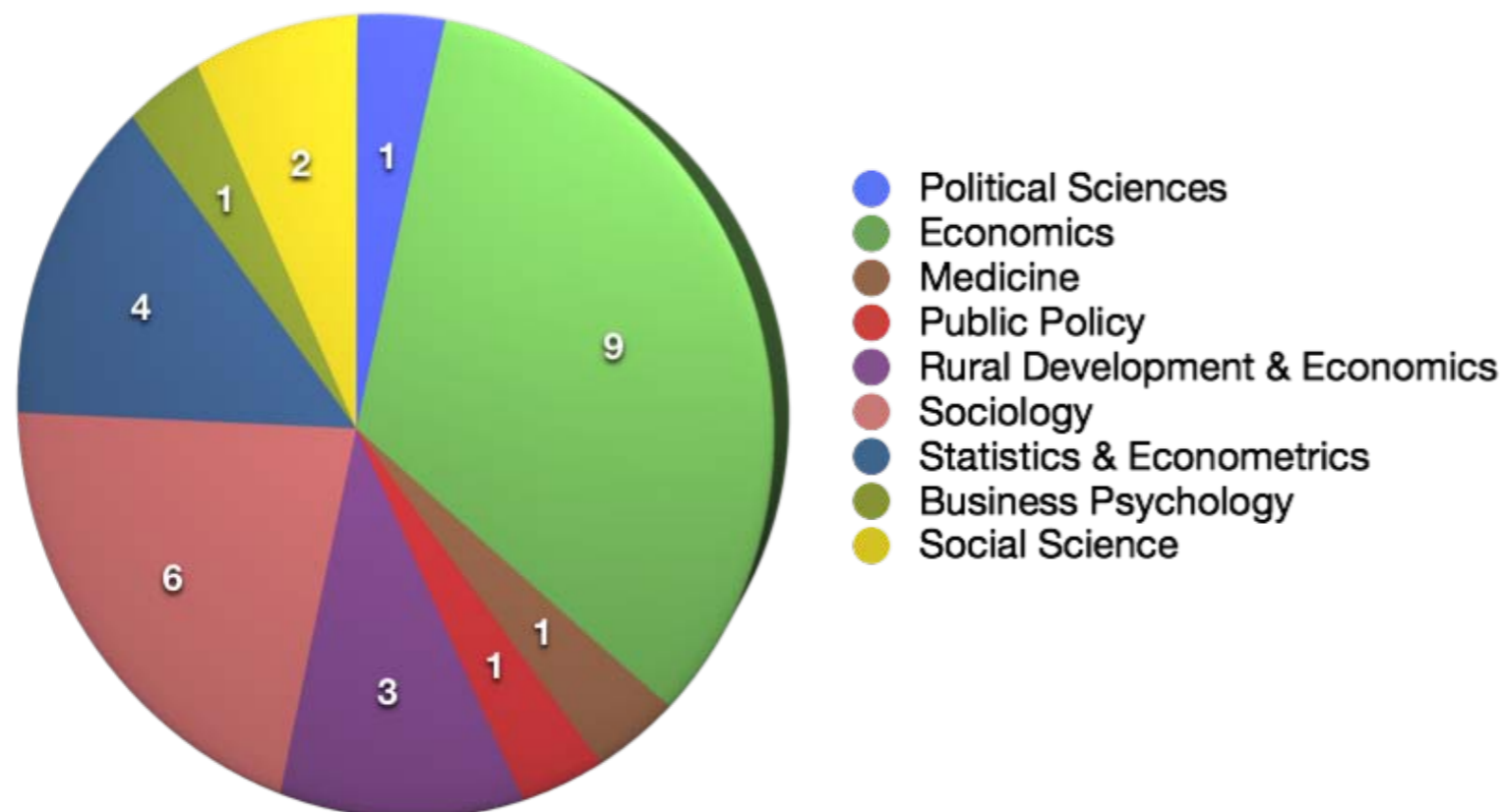
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Finding out what researchers want

- Semi-structured interviews in 4 countries: DE, ES, NL, & RO carried out in 2012/13. Plus one focus group (16 researchers).
- 28 researchers interviewed.
- Aim: to deliver a complete & coherent set of user stories for the creation of the DwB resource discovery portal.

Interviewee Disciplines



Researcher Requirements

You have to browse all the various PDF documents to get the information you need. It is not possible to search through the PDFs.

Actually, it is quite hard to find the desired data searching in these portals. Even taking into account that I usually search aggregate data in such Internet portals.

...at conferences she becomes aware through paper presentation from other researchers which data are available. At the moment these contacts are her main source.

A lot of necessary information is lacking. This information is available at NSI internally, but not directly available for the researchers.

Advanced Discovery

I would like to have a portal with really specific search criteria, such as geographical area (countries, regions, etc.), topics, time interval, comparability, type of data (microdata, aggregate data, etc.).

...really important that the site had a set of search criteria sufficiently large to let to the user to search as concrete as possible.

It is important that information about trend breaks is available for researchers. At the moment they have to figure it out by themselves, that shouldn't be the case.

- Need for high-quality & extensive metadata
- Consistency in metadata available & changes clearly identified.
- Questionnaires, codebooks, complete methodological documentation and more...

Cross-Boundary Comparability

Comparability is important. For cross-national research you have to know exactly how a concept is measured in the different countries.

She stress that language is here a fundamental matter because there are useful databases in some European countries, which are not translated into English.

OS data is very useful for international comparisons, but only if the research instruments are connected with a system of cultural-related set of indicators

- Heterogeneous metadata & multiple languages
- For some concepts, researchers need additional context information to identify comparability of the variables across countries.
- What is the perception of a concept in a particular country?

Sustainability & Accessibility

... the website of NSIs only have the information about the most recent data. If you want to use older data, information is not available on the web.

Such a portal should have direct access to the suitable data, eventually through a series of preliminary statistical analysis tools in order to assess if a particular dataset overlaps with the research questions.

- Should be possible to find historic datasets & studies.
- Must be automatically identified, updated and maintained.
- If an issue is spotted it should be possible to report this to the data creator.

Communities, Sharing & Collaborating

- *...user groups around specific data or specific topics. These user groups share expert knowledge, papers, sometimes even syntax of the analyses.*
- *It would be great if there were a possibility to share the work on harmonisation.*
- *The interviewee receives the documentation on paper and he documents it himself on the web.*
- *[I] would like to have the possibility to add comments. This can also help other researchers.*
- Communities should be able to build their own specialised portal
- Communication & social media tools could help build knowledge bases & communities
- Metadata enrichment by the researchers?

Thank you for your attention!

Full report available as: “Deliverable D8.4 (Final report proposing portal resource discovery functionality for a search/ browse portal interface)”

<http://www.dwbproject.org/about/deliverables.html>

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