Shifting from the Codebook model to the Lifecycle model of DDI: the specifications of the French Center of Socio-Political Data

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Context

- The French Center of Socio-Political Data (CDSP): member of the Réseau Quetelet;
- 2005: the CDSP started disseminating surveys
  - To date, 207 datafiles.
- 2012: data producer of the ELIPSS panel
  - To date, 15 surveys to be documented and disseminated.
Summary

- **Current documentation solution**
  - Nesstar+DDI–C
  - CDSP data access
  - Current challenges
  - *Réseau Quetelet* question bank

- **Shifting from DDI–C to DDI–L**
  - From DDI–C to DDI–L
  - Finding the tools
  - New practices to use DDI–L

- **Building a metadata system**
  - Go ahead with a metadata system
  - Beginning to use DDI–L
Current documentation solution: Nesstar+DDI-C
Current challenges

- Identifying an approach in which the entire lifecycle of ELIPSS is addressed;
- Meeting its longitudinal needs: DDI-L;
- Shifting to DDI-L: the migration of our existing datasets into the new standard.
Réseau Quetelet question bank

- Includes 455 studies / 182,018 questions or variables;
- Allows a search in the question text, response categories and variables names and labels;
- Facilitates the re-use of metadata: a documentation tool
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From DDI–C to DDI–L

- Few options for **tools** that “translate” DDI–C into DDI–L;
- Parse structured information into a rough DDI–L structure using:
  - stylesheets;
  - XSLT;
  - regular expressions.
Finding the tools

- Initially, our efforts focused on finding the tool corresponding to our needs;
- 10 tested tools (Colectica Designer, Questasy, DDI Editor, MQDS…);
- Which DDI–L profile to use?
  - Participation at DDI workshops and conferences.
New practices to use DDI–L

- We need to take the variable-level as the entry-point of the documentation process:
  - Starting point: the question bank of the Réseau Quetelet;
  - Next step: revise the documentation practices and come up with a metadata system.
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  - Go ahead with a metadata system
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Go ahead with a metadata system

- In the near future: continue to disseminate datasets in DDI–C;

- In the middle future: translate our DDI–C documented surveys into the DDI–L model;

- The long-term objective: use the possibilities given by DDI–L (<ControlConstructScheme>);

- Today, we are planning to build a metadata system: find or create tools.
Beginning to use DDI–L

Surveys provided by external researchers

<XML DDI–C> file

Blaise file

Metadata system
(metadata database, xml generator...)

Blaise categories, code lists libraries

Questions, variables, categories catalogues

Archives system

PDF file

To Blaise programmers To research teams To Réseau Quetelet Portal
http://cdsp.sciences-po.fr/
http://quanti.dime-shs.sciences-po.fr/

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