



Existing infrastructures for data services in Western Balkans

IASSIST conference *"Data Innovation: Increasing Accessibility, Visibility and Sustainability"*

Cologne, Germany, 28-31 May 2013.

Marijana Glavica, mglavica@ffzg.hr
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Library

Purpose and questions

dual purpose

- get to know existing experiences with long-term preservation of research data and potential infrastructure
- inform about the project and recognise future collaborators

questions

- does the institution have the infrastructure for data storage?
- do they develop policies and competences for long-term preservation and documentation of the data?
- whether there are technical capacity / computer services for the collection and dissemination of data?
- what is the perception of a possible national data archives?

Surveyed Institutions

- research institutions (faculties and institutes)
 - disciplines: demography, economy, information sciences, criminology, culture and communications, media studies, education, political sciences, history, psychology, sociology
 - quantitative and qualitative data
 - data from external sources (especially economics)
- research infrastructure institutions (libraries, computing centres), national statistical offices, state archives

Instrument and procedure

- initially - semi-structured interview with representatives of relevant institutions (for WP4)
 - face-to-face or phone
 - september to november 2012
- continued exploring and reaching new people and institutions

Identified experience - BiH

- Human Rights Centre of the University of Sarajevo
 - *initiated the SERSCIDA project*
 - *16 years of research and archiving experience*
- Agency for statistics of B&H
 - *centralised data compilation for whole B&H*

Identified experiences - Croatia

- University Computing Centre of the University of Zagreb (Srce)
 - “*Public Data Collections*” service is intended for storing different data collections that are of the public interest and which scope requires considerable data resources
 - authentication and authorization of infrastructures (AAI@EduHr) - part of eduGAIN service

Identified experiences - Serbia

- Institute of Social Sciences
 - *10 years ago initiative for establishing national data archive; today involved in international project with objective of establishment of digital archive at the institutional level*
- Institute for Social Research
 - *preserves all the data produced together on one computer; data are available to all researchers at the Institute within two years from the completion of the research, and afterwards they are fully publicly available*

What happens with the data?

- data are stored on the local computers and media of researchers
- some institutions store data on their local servers

great risk of data being lost forever!

Policies, competences, data documentation, technical capacities

- mostly non-existent
- Srce (Croatia)
 - Rulebook on Terms of Use of Data Services
 - basic metadata (DC), no documentation
 - software for collecting and access to data

Possible models of national data archives - BiH

- satellite model
 - data can be collected in Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo
- Human Rights Centre University of Sarajevo in Sarajevo, key role in data acquisition, processing, support for researchers seeking data sets, training for researchers
- National and University Library of Republic of Srpska in Banja Luka, key role IT infrastructure and maintenance
- Information and Documentation Centre in Sarajevo, key role back-up and safe room for sensitive data depository and access for researchers

Possible models of national data archives - Croatia

- continue, develop and enhance data services already established at Srce computing centre
 - add user services and support to already established technical infrastructure
- cooperation with relevant higher education and research institutions - forming a network of people who will work closely with researchers and giving local support to scientists, facilitate data preservation and sharing

Possible models of national data archives - Serbia

- organization of the archive within the National Library of Serbia, given their extensive experience in the field of archiving
- an scientific institution to be a central point for archiving the data collected by all other institutions, funded by budget for science, with additional proposal to introduce a minimum price for the service to support sustainability
- archive could be created at the University of Belgrade, but the center would operate independently or in computer center of the University of Belgrade.