

The Documentation of Qualitative Interviews in Organizational Research Problems and Solutions

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Session B4

Qualitative and Atypical Data: Expanding and
Facilitating Usage

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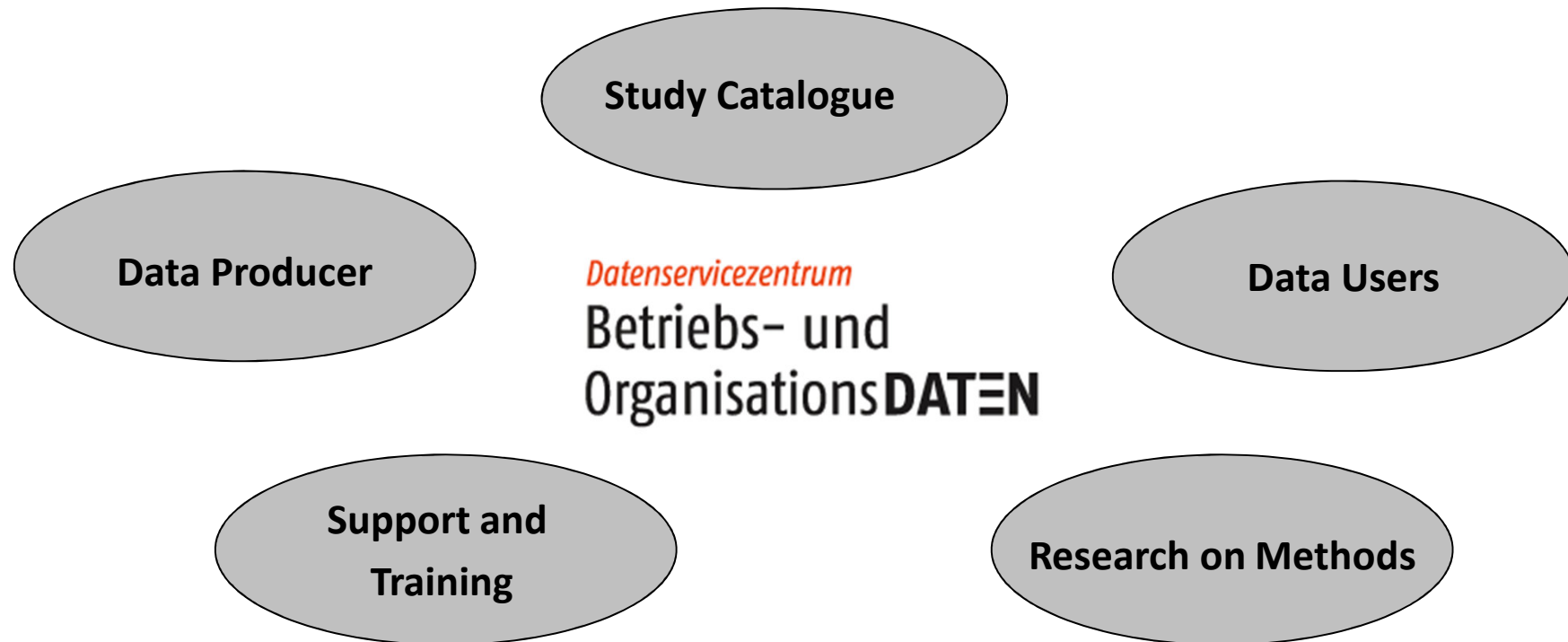
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Outline

1. Background
2. Reasons for Documentation
3. Problems
4. The Documentation Design of the DSC-BO
5. The Meta Data Standard DDI
6. Using DDI on DSC-BO
7. Outlook
8. Summary

1. Background

The Data Service Center Business and Organizational Data (DSC-BO)



2. Reasons for Documentation

- Data Sharing
 - requires to estimate trends and applications, documented extensively as possible
 - evaluation analysis potential
 - offer context for better understanding of data
- Long-Term Archiving
 - transparency and traceability of own and other data
 - avoiding loss of information in long-term research projects with frequent staff changes
 - promotes critical exchange about the research process and the data

3. Problems

- qualitative organizational research often takes place in small projects
 - lack of a tradition of documentation compared to large data sets
- high complexity of data in organizational research
- missing incentives
- no part of German academic curriculum
- structure of documentation
 - heterogeneity in construction and content
 - lack of information of context

4. The Documentation Design of the DSC-BO

- focused on interviews
- the documentation design is determined by
 - demands of the qualitative research process
 - demands of organizational research
 - own experiences and experiences from qualitative research projects of the SFB 882 “From Heterogeneities to Inequalities“
 - requirements of the documentation standard DDI
- distinguishing between three types of data
 - Micro Data, Para Data and Meta Data

4. The Documentation of the DSC-BO

Micro Data

- **Communicative Context** (Medjedović/ Witzel 2010)
 - transcripts
 - rules of the translation transcription
 - rules of the anonymization
- **Extra-Situational Context** (Medjedović/ Witzel 2010)
 - collects data outside of the immediate setting, often from administrative sources
 - background information on the institutional, cultural, socio-political and historical context of the organization

4. The Documentation Design of the DSC-BO

Para Data

- describe data collection process (Kreuter/ Casas-Cordero 2010)
- **Situative Context** (Medjedović/ Witzel 2010)
 - illustration of the immediate setting, interview report
„Postskript“ (Witzel 1982/2000b)
- **Context of Organizational Culture**
 - organizational/technical terminology, specific organizational practises
 - provide a better understanding of data and help to prevent misunderstandings

4. The Documentation Design of the DSC-BO

Meta Data

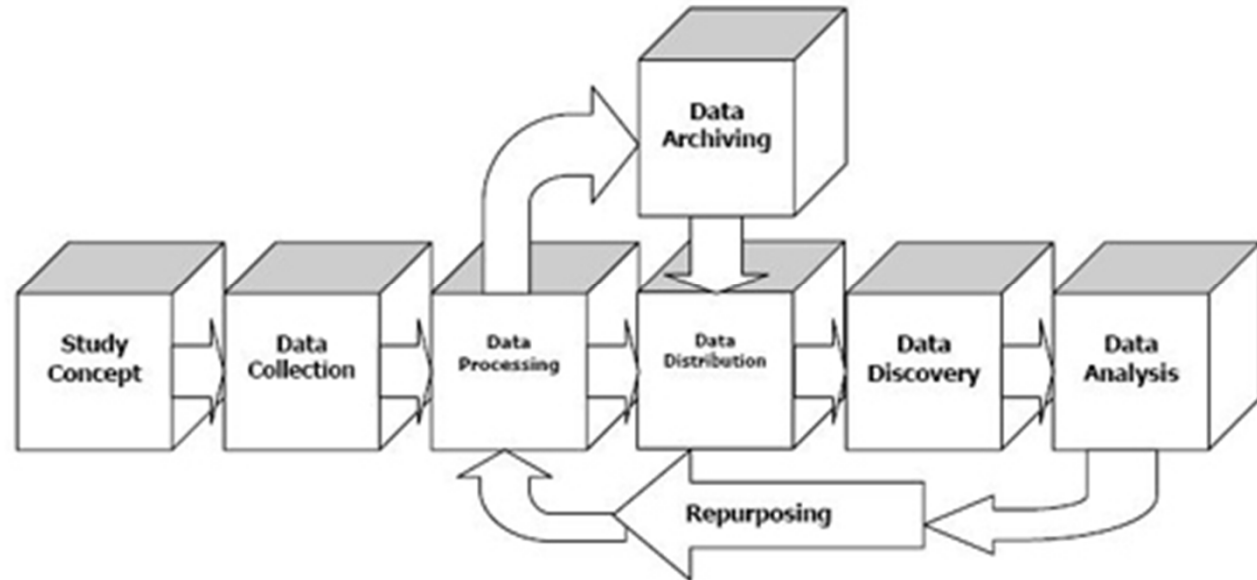
- provide the **Project Context** (Bishop 2006), the design of the research project
- necessary in order to assess the methodological quality of a study
- necessary to represent and find data in data catalogs
- is not focused on final decisions
 - offer information and description to the whole genesis and developments in the research process
 - describes all changes in the course of research

5. The Meta Data Standard DDI

Basic idea: Standardized Documentation of the Research Process

Innovation: Documentation of the whole data collection process and the reusing of the data

Data Life Cycle:



6. Using DDI on DSC-BO

- for a large part of the information (full title, time methode, funding agency, distributor, abstract etc.) DDI modules can be directly applied
- for the specific requirements of qualitative research process - circularity and temporal parallelism, heterogeneity and complexity of the data, methods, adaptations of existing modules are required
- sampling procedure, mode of data collection, type of research instrument, kind of data, cleaning operations and data analysis – definition of own controlled vocabulary or use as text
- para data information, data collection instruments, data reports and other documents are a seperated files as related material

7. Outlook

- Funding Organizations
 - supply of necessary resources
- Archivs
 - education and qualifications of researchers to scientific knowledge and established standards
- Researcher
 - readiness to documentation beyond the direct project requirements
 - readiness to learn for professional documentation
- University Education
 - research documentation have to get part of the curriculums

8. Summary

- qualitative data get in addition to the publication an independent scientific product
- Documentation
 - requirements for Data Sharing and Long-Term Archiving
 - facilitate the comparability of qualitative research
 - improves the transparency and comprehensibility of qualitative research
 - makes easier cooperation

THANK YOU

<http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/dsz-bo/>

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