

Best and actual practices:

Documenting data collection
on the GSS and ISSP



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The background



- Gold standard / best practice
- Local context / actual practice
- Judgment on what is feasible

-- A budding project of documentation --

We got standards

- Best practices in field work that have been developed over decades
- Guidelines for design and translation of surveys
- Importance of documenting the data collection lifecycle well established and becoming more common
- Increasing metadata, and paradata, documentation

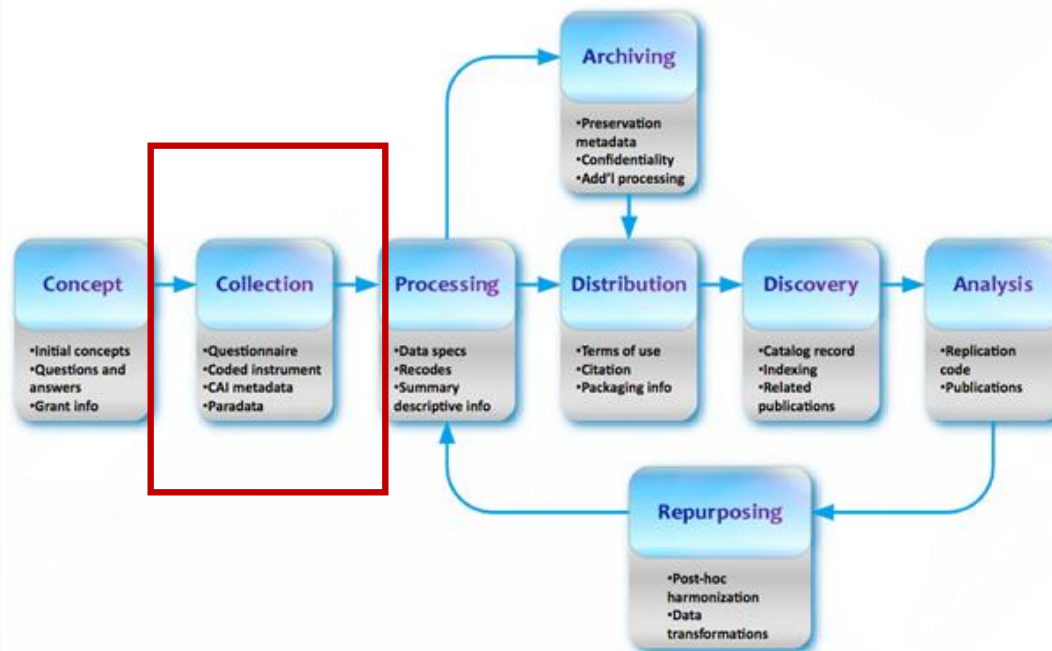
What is DDI?

Last Updated: Sun, 2012-08-19 03:55 — Sam Spencer

About the DDI standards

The **Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)** is an effort to create an international standard for describing data from the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. Expressed in [XML](#), the DDI metadata [specification](#) now supports the entire research data life cycle. DDI metadata accompanies and enables data conceptualization, collection, processing, distribution, discovery, analysis, repurposing, and archiving.

History of the Standard





Generic statistical business process model (GSBPM) version 4 (2009)

Status

Generic statistical business process model version 4 was approved as a reference model on March 15, 2010.

<u>Quality management / Metadata management</u>								
<u>1</u> Specify need	<u>2</u> Design	<u>3</u> Build	<u>4</u> Collect	<u>5</u> Process	<u>6</u> Analyse	<u>7</u> Disseminate	<u>8</u> Archive	<u>9</u> Evaluate
<u>1.1</u> Determine needs for information	<u>2.1</u> Design outputs	<u>3.1</u> Build data collection instrument	<u>4.1</u> Select sample	<u>5.1</u> Integrate data	<u>6.1</u> Prepare draft outputs	<u>7.1</u> Update output systems	<u>8.1</u> Define archive rules	<u>9.1</u> Gather evaluation inputs
<u>1.2</u> Consult and confirm needs	<u>2.2</u> Design variable descriptions	<u>3.2</u> Build or enhance process components	<u>4.2</u> Set up collection	<u>5.2</u> Classify & code	<u>6.2</u> Validate outputs	<u>7.2</u> Produce dissemination products	<u>8.2</u> Manage archive repository	<u>9.2</u> Conduct evaluation
<u>1.3</u> Establish output objectives	<u>2.3</u> Design data collection methodology	<u>3.3</u> Configure workflows	<u>4.3</u> Run collection	<u>5.3</u> Review, validate and edit	<u>6.3</u> Scrutinize and explain	<u>7.3</u> Manage release of dissemination products	<u>8.3</u> Preserve data and associated metadata	<u>9.3</u> Agree action plan
<u>1.4</u> Identify concepts	<u>2.4</u> Design frame and sample methodology	<u>3.4</u> Test production systems	<u>4.4</u> Finalize collection	<u>5.4</u> Impute	<u>6.4</u> Apply disclosure control	<u>7.4</u> Promote dissemination products	<u>8.4</u> Dispose of data and associated metadata	
<u>1.5</u> Check data availability	<u>2.5</u> Design statistical processing methodology	<u>3.5</u> Test statistical business process		<u>5.5</u> Derive new variables and statistical units	<u>6.5</u> Finalize outputs	<u>7.5</u> Manage user support		
<u>1.6</u> Prepare business case	<u>2.6</u> Design production systems and workflow	<u>3.6</u> Finalize production systems		<u>5.6</u> Calculate weights				

And a good resource

- Website on best practices in cross-cultural surveys

Cross-Cultural Survey Guidelines

[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Guestbook](#) | [User Guide](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Archive](#)


[View Chapters](#)

- [Introduction](#)
- [Study Structure](#)
- [Survey Quality](#)
- [Ethical Considerations](#)
- [Tenders, Bids, & Contracts](#)
- [Sample Design](#)
- [Questionnaire Design](#)

[Guidelines for Best Practice in Cross-Cultural Surveys](#) PDF
ISBN 978-0-9828418-1-5

Welcome to the Cross-Cultural Survey Guidelines (CCSG)

These Guidelines were developed as part of the [Comparative Survey Design and Implementation \(CSDI\)](#) Guidelines Initiative. The aim of the Initiative was to promote internationally recognized guidelines that highlight best practice for the conduct of comparative survey research across cultures and countries. The intended audience is researchers and survey practitioners planning or engaged in cross-cultural or cross-national research.



- Details of best practices in “nuts and bolts” of data collection

. Determine the pay structure for the data collection staff.

Rationale

Procedural steps

- Interviewer pay structures vary greatly across cultures. Depending on local labor laws, set interviewer pay comparable to the pay for other jobs requiring similar skills, ideally adjusted for regional cost of living standards.
- Keep in mind local research traditions, the mode of the survey, and local labor laws. The two standard policies are to pay interviewers an hourly rate or to pay per completed interview [\[17\]](#) [\[44\]](#).
 - Factors favoring payment per interview:
 - It is most feasible if each completed interview takes approximately the same amount of interviewer effort, as is more likely in a telephone survey [\[44\]](#).
 - It is easier to monitor and control interviewer costs than when paying by the hour [\[44\]](#) [\[52\]](#).
 - Factors favoring an hourly rate:
 - It is most feasible if the effort to complete an interview varies widely, as is common in face-to-face surveys [\[33\]](#) [\[44\]](#).
 - Interviewers have less incentive to perform hurried, sloppy work or even to fabricate interviews than when paid per interview [\[44\]](#) [\[52\]](#).

Bumpy roads ahead

- But what are the “actual practices”
 - What is the precedent, if any
- ...Particularly in cross-national research?



Data collection across different countries

- Characteristics of interviewers
- How was validation conducted, if at all?
- How long was training and how was it conducted?
- Interviewer pay structure
- Any political dynamics at play
- What was the contacting strategy? (number limit?)
- Process of informed consent and any adaptation to cultural context
- How was the sample and field work managed and with how much of a delay?
- Was there “replacement sample” and what determined how/whether to use it?

Contacts

Reports

Mailing Lists

Links

Member of the



Synopsis of ISSP Modules by Year

Documentation on ISSP data sets is provided on so called profile pages. On each module profile page you will find:

- An overview of variables, questions and replications in each ISSP modules (from 1995 on);
- An overview of participating countries, with sample size and year of fieldwork;
- English ISSP source questionnaire;
- National field questionnaires;
- Documentation on ISSP background variables (from 2004 onwards);
- Links to online data analysis & download;
- Codebooks (until 2004);
- Full text search in codebooks & questionnaires;
- Study Monitoring Reports;
- Comments and errata.

A half baked idea

- Get actual practices on recent rounds of the GSS and ISSP into a searchable format, organized by country
- Precedents for interest / involvement at CSDI



But how?

- Compiling available info and organizing it by country?
 - Conduct survey and write report?
 - Using existing metadata / paradata documentation formats?
 - Using another data documentation format?
 - Use structure of ISR survey guidelines
 - Other ways?
- ...discussion, involvement and suggestions are welcome!

Thank you!
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