
Listening to our data users: a qualitative study to better know their perception of our data and metadata.

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Abstract

In the open science "era", data centers are on the frontline of data sharing. Sharing data collected by itself and by and others, the French Center for Socio-Political Data (CDSP) faces multiple problematics concerning the usability of its services, especially those related to the FAIR principles. The CDSP has been using DDI to document its data since its creation in 2006. If the standard provides a rich documentation, up to the level of the variable, what are the other elements to be taken into consideration for a "good" data user experience? Does DDI answer to all of the four letters of FAIR? In order to get a better grasp of the secondary data users' point of view, we have undertaken a qualitative study: we conducted semi-directive interviews with people having downloading data at least once in the last year from the CDSP. This study has taught us that the documentation of data and metadata is perceived as a great strength of our data, permitting optimal reuse. However, if this fact is encouraging in regard to the academic world's efforts to open science, a practical limit emerges. This showed us that even if standards are a huge step to data dissemination, we still have efforts to do to make our data more accessible. This paper will present the outcomes of our survey, as well as our next steps to make our DDI metadata and our data more findable and discoverable.

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