Social Science Data - strategies for sharing

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Strategies for Sharing - Overview

What is qualitative data
Sharing and barriers to sharing
What are the ethical concerns?
Ethical Framework for sharing
  - Consent, Anonmyisation, Licenses, Access
Developing an archiving strategy
  - Sensitivity levels
Irish Qualitative Data Archive - DRI partner

Interviews (audio, video, transcripts)
Focus Groups
Diaries and documents
Photographs

Words and Images
Why Share?
Ethics - Key Questions

1. Whether there is harm to the participants
2. Whether there is a lack of informed consent
3. Whether there is an invasion of privacy
4. Whether deception is involved.
Ethical Framework

1. Consent
2. Anonymisation
3. Depositor and end-user licenses and legal agreements
4. Access and user restrictions

IQDA Best Practice in Archiving Guide 2011 (with Tallaght West CDI)
Consent

• Simple, not overly simplistic

• Avoids excessive warnings and jargon

• Complete for all purposes: use, publishing, sharing
Consent

A good consent form will include

– purpose of the research
– what is involved in participation
– mechanism of withdrawal
– benefits and risks
– usage of data – for primary research and sharing
– strategies to ensure confidentiality of data (anonymisation, access….)
– funding source, contact details, complaint procedure
Anonymisation
Case Study: Life History and Social Change consent form

• Remove major identifying data
• Remove all identifying details
• Replace with descriptions that reflect the significance of the original text within the context of the transcript
• Keep a tracking table to record all changes and to link real names with pseudonyms
Anonmyisation - Names
Case Study: Life History and Social Change

consent form

“I was talking to my neighbour, Mary, and I said”

“I was talking to my neighbour, @@Sarah##, and I said”.

“I remember, De Valera was president at that time.”
Anonymisation - Occupations
Case Study: Life History and Social Change
consent form

“I was a nurse”

“I was the third secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs ”

“I was @@a senior civil servant## ”
Anonymisation - Places

Case Study: Life History and Social Change

consent for

“We had the reception at Ballymascanlan hotel”
“We had the reception at @@a local hotel##”
“I was brought up in Killarney”
“I was brought up in @@Kilkeely, in the South-West##.”
Anonymisation - Places
Case Study: Life History and Social Change consent for

“I went to The High School in Rathgar”

I went to @@a private secondary school in Dublin##”
Depositor & End User Agreement

Access Restrictions

• Who can access the archive
• When can they access the archive

Data Security

• Confidentiality commitments
• Data security commitments
Archiving Strategy
1. Identify Sensitivity levels
2. Apply appropriate strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk of Identification</th>
<th>Risk of Harm</th>
<th>Sensitivity Level</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Open Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Restricted Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Remove sensitive text or Embargo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enabling re-use: Contextual Information

Original grant application
* End of award report
* Description of methodology
* Interview schedule(s)/topic guide
* Questionnaire
* Observation checklist
* Interviewer instructions/prompt cards
* Matrices
* Tree diagrams
* Information about equipment used (e.g. recording equipment)
* Other background information
* Details of missing information
* Correspondence
* Speaker markers in text, typically associated with internal metadata; question or thematic markers in text; cross-reference of text to audio material.
* Explanations of any short hand or researcher notes used in the data-set
Data Management

- Formats
- Naming conventions
- Data storage (3, 2, 1)