Certification as a means of providing trust: the European framework

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Data Archiving and Networked Services

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Certification as a means of providing trust: the European Framework

- Definitions research data
- Data sharing and trust
- European Framework
- The devil’s advocate
What is DANS?

Institute of Dutch Academy and Research Funding Organisation (KNAW & NWO) since 2005

Mission: promote permanent access to digital research information

First predecessor dates back to 1964 (Steinmetz Foundation), Historical Data Archive 1989
DANS
main activities and services

• Encourage researchers to self-archive and reuse data by means of our Electronic Archiving SYstem EASY
• Our largest digital collections are in archaeology, social sciences and history (moving into other domains)
• Provide access, through narcis.nl, to thousands of scientific datasets, e-publications and other research information in the Netherlands
• Data projects in collaboration with research communities and partner organisations
• Advice, training and support (Data Seal of Approval, Persistent Identifier Infrastructure)
Definition research data

Factual records, which may take the form of numbers, symbols, text, images or sounds, used as primary sources for research, commonly accepted in the research community as necessary to validate research findings.
Definition research data

Data in any format or medium that relate to or support research, scholarship, or artistic activity.

Classified as:

- **Raw or primary data**: Information recorded as notes, images, video footage, paper surveys, computer files, etc.
- **Processed data**: Analyses, descriptions, and conclusions prepared as reports or papers
- **Published data**: Information distributed to people beyond those involved in data acquisition and administration
Data is hot!

• Riding the wave: critical importance of sharing and preserving reliable data produced during the scientific process

• Commissioner Kroes: “Data is the new gold”

• EC Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information: European open access policy
De waarheid volgens Diederik Stapel


Door Yvonnie Beekhuyzen

Het brein van een bedrieger
Why is that?

- Transparency and replication of research
- Hot item in the Netherlands
Report finds massive fraud at Dutch universities

Investigation claims dozens of social-psychology papers contain faked data.

Fraud Case Seen as a Red Flag for Psychology Research

A well-known psychologist in the Netherlands whose work has been published widely in professional journals falsified data and made up entire experiments, an investigating committee has found. Experts say the case exposes deep flaws in the way science is done in a field, psychology, that has only recently earned a fragile respectability.

Report: Dutch 'Lord of the Data' Forged Dozens of Studies (UPDATE)

by Gretchen Vogel on 31 October 2011, 7:05 PM | 34 Comments

Public sector can combat fraud with data sharing

Outsourcing is not the only thing to blame for procurement fraud, says Graham Kemp, and the public sector needs to view data less as a security risk but knowledge to be shared.
Why is that?

• Re-use of data
  – Efficiency in research
  – Combining datasets
  – Usage of datasets in other disciplines
  – Usage of data outside academia
  – Higher return on investment
Importance of research data
Reality of data sharing

- **Locally:** on my own computer(s), or on computer(s) of my department or laboratory: 36%
- **On external hard disks or backup media (CD, DVD, tape, etc.):** 23%
- **On a network disk of my department or institute:** 31%
- **On a central storage facility outside my department or institute:** 9%
- **Other:** 1%

**Where do you as a researcher store your data for future use?**

- **Computer at work:** 81%
- **Portable storage carrier:** 66%
- **Organisational server:** 59%
- **Computer at home:** 51%
- **Submitted with journal (at publisher):** 15%
- **Digital archive of organisation:** 14%
- **Digital archive of discipline:** 6%
- **Other:** 3%
- **Don't store digital research data:** 3%
- **External web service:** 2%

(Multiple answers allowed)
Why not share?

• Those data are mine!

• Discredit my findings

• Still analyzing the data

• I cannot trust the data produced somewhere else
Trust

Trust is at the very heart of storing and sharing data

– Users
– Depositors
– Funders
Trust: What do we mean? What do we rely on?

RANG IS ALLEEN RANG ALS ER RANG OP STAAT

You can rely on us

Can you?
What is a trustworthy digital repository?

Things are not always what they say they are.

Things do not always state what they are.
What is trust built on (in trusted archives)?

- Dedicate yourself (mission statement)
- Do what you promise (stable, sincere and competent reputation)
- Be transparent (peer review, get certified)
What is a trustworthy digital repository?

– mission to provide reliable, long-term access to managed digital resources to its designated community, now and into the future
– constant monitoring, planning, and maintenance
– understand threats to and risks within its systems
– regular cycle of audit and/or certification
Any organisation which provides access to data over a long period of time should be fully trusted only with a public statement describing the practices they follow and the provenance of data they provide. Standards of trust are critical.
Assessing trustworthiness
Certification Standards: Data Seal of Approval (DSA)

- DANS initiative
- International Board
- 16 guidelines
- Self assessment
- Transparency

Data producers are responsible for the quality of research data, repositories for storage and long-term access, and users for correct use of data.

The research data:
- can be found on the Internet
- are accessible (clear rights and licenses)
- are in a usable format
- are reliable
- can be referred to (persistent identifier)
Certification Standards: NESTOR - DIN

- Germany
- Competence network for digital preservation
- WG Certification
Certification Standards: DIN 31644

- 34 criteria
- Test audits 2013
Certification Standards: TRAC -> ISO

- OAIS-model
- TRAC
- ISO
Certification Standards: ISO 16363

• Over 100 metrics
• Test audits 2011
• Full external auditing process
Certification Standards: ISO metrics

• Organisational infrastructure
• Digital object management
• Infrastructure and security risk management

• Metric
  – Supporting text
  – Examples of evidence
  – discussion
European Certification Framework

- MoU
- Three-tiered framework
Framework levels

- **Basic Certification** is granted to repositories which obtain DSA certification.

- **Extended Certification** is granted to Basic Certification repositories which *in addition* perform a structured, externally reviewed and publicly available self-audit based on ISO 16363 or DIN 31644.

- **Formal Certification** is granted to repositories which *in addition to* Basic Certification obtain full external audit and certification based on ISO 16363 or DIN.
On-going work on Trust

• Work Package on “Trust” within APARSEN project
• European Framework for Audit and Certification of Digital Repositories – seek collaboration with ICSU World Data System (accreditation)
• RDA Group on Certification
The devil’s advocate

• Trustworthiness of digital repositories is an illusion
  – Too complicated to measure
  – Impossible to maintain over time
  – Too informal – too expensive and time consuming
My message

• Trustworthiness of digital repositories is not an illusion
  – Three levels are clear and balanced
  – Different levels for different needs
Objective and consistent auditing is an illusion

- “If auditing becomes a career, what will happen to objectivity?” (H. Tibbo)
- Impossible to guarantee consistency around the globe
My message

• Objective and consistent auditing can be done
  – Auditing already is a career
  – Do not stress consistency around the globe too much
What does trust mean?

• Trust by definition implies uncertainty

• “You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”
  (Martin Luther King)
Thank you for your attention!

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http://datasealofapproval.org/
www.trusteddigitalrepository.eu