MAKING USE OF HIGH QUALITY ARCHIVED DATA - QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE

LOUISE
CORTI

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
UK DATA ARCHIVE
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

SRA CONFERNCE
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WHY USE EXISTING DATA?

- re-using research data has many benefits
- may prevent unneccessary data collection
  - repetitive or burdensome on vulnerable populations
- may give access to difficult to reach populations
- may allow more time for
  - formulating research questions
  - methods and theory development
  - analysis
- archived research data provides very rich resources for training in social enquiry

OUR DATA COLLECTION

- contains information on and access to over 5,000 data collections
- extensive range of key economic and social data
- quantitative and qualitative data, spanning many disciplines and themes
- open access user guides and documentation

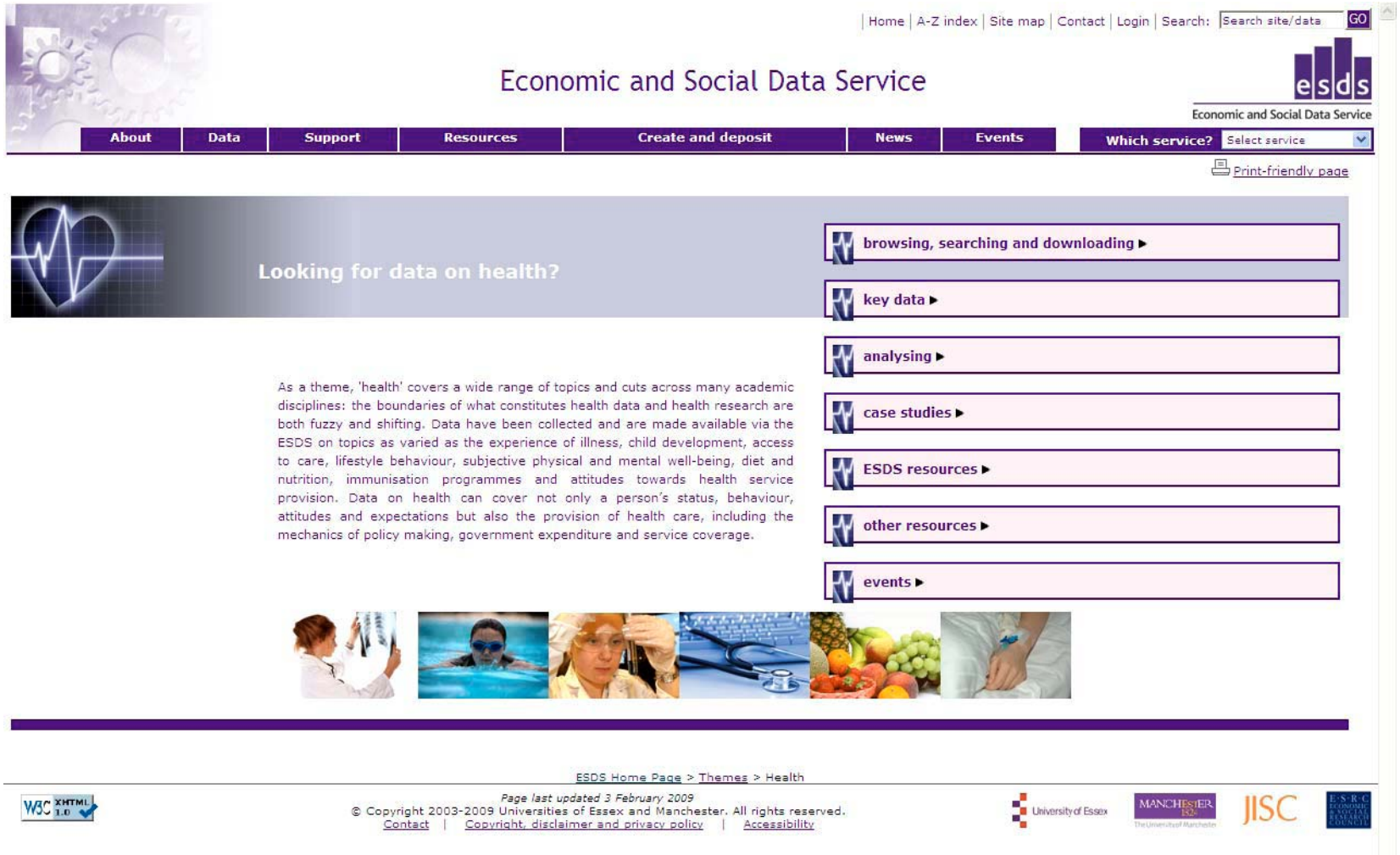
MAJOR DATA SERIES

- Annual Population Survey
- British Crime Survey / Scottish Crime Survey
- British Social Attitudes Survey / Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey / Scottish Social Attitudes Survey / Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey / Young People's Social Attitudes
- Living Costs and Food Survey (previously known as Expenditure and Food Survey)
- Family Expenditure Survey / Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey
- Family Resources Survey
- General Lifestyle Survey (previously known as General Household Survey) / Continuous Household Survey (Northern Ireland)
- Health Survey For England / Welsh Health Survey / Scottish Health Survey
- Households Below Average Income
- Labour Force Survey / Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey
- National Food Survey
- National Travel Survey
- ONS Opinions Survey (previously known as ONS Omnibus Survey)
- Survey of English Housing
- United Kingdom Time Use Survey
- Vital Statistics for England and Wales

OTHER POPULAR DATASETS

- British Election Studies
- Census datasets
- Citizenship Survey
- English House Condition Survey (EHCS)
- Farm Business Survey
- Health and Lifestyle Survey (HALS)
- International Passenger Survey
- National Diet and Nutrition Surveys
- National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles
- Offending, Crime and Justice Survey
- Psychiatric Morbidity Surveys
- Road Accident Data
- Scottish Household Survey
- Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People
- Survey of Mortgage Lenders
- Workplace Employee Relations Survey
- Youth Cohort Study

THEMATIC RESOURCES



WHAT RESEARCH DATA ARE WORTH KEEPING?

- rich data, breadth, unique, topical, time series
- format, usability and condition of material
- data that have further analytic potential than the original investigation (depth; large-scale; longitudinal)
- relative importance or impact of the study
- confidentiality issues un problematic (consent)
- copyright is not prohibitive

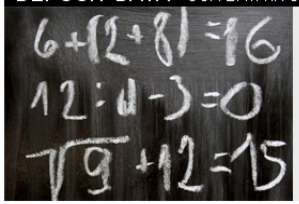
I NEEDED TO EMPTY MY OFFICE….

HOW DO PEOPLE RE-USE DATA?

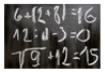
- descriptive material
- comparative research, restudy or follow-up study
- re-analysis/secondary analysis
- research design and methodological advancement
- replication of published statistics
- teaching and learning

CASE STUDIES OF RE-USE

DEPOSIT DATA OUR DATA IN USE



Read about how researchers and teachers have used our data



British Household Panel Survey
The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) was used for a Ph.D. thesis ...

British Migrants in Spain, 2003-2005
This data collection was used to support Jo's teaching of graduate qua...

The Last Refuge, 1958-1959
The research began with a re-examination of Townsend's original

Affluent Worker Study, 1961-1962
As part of a Leverhulme Fellowship Mike undertook fieldwork involving ...

The Edwardians, 1870-1973
In his research into how young civilian soldiers survived trench warfa...

The Edwardians, 1870-1973
This work used data from The Edwardians for a book, Free Trade Nation:...

National Food Survey
Twenty-six waves of the National Food Survey were used for a PhD research on 'Nutrition, Health and Socio...

British Household Panel Survey
The data were used to examine disparities in the residential mobility of women with children into and out...

Millennium Cohort Study
There have been many several studies that have looked at twins as research subjects, and in particular as...

School Leavers Study, 1978
The Living and Working on Sheppey project explores the recent history and changes in working lives in She...

100 Families, 1900-1988
In the project, Masculine preserves? Cooking, gender and family, c.1945-1985, rather than approaching gen...

Mothers Alone, 1955-1966
Little is known, in specific terms, about unmarried mothers between the First World War and the mid-1990s...

The Edwardians, 1870-1973
The project on Liquid Politics, funded by ESRC and AHRC, looked at conflicts over water and the creation ...

Census of Great Britain, 1851
The PhD thesis entitled 'Those whom God hath not joined' explored the position of never-married men and w...

Neighbourhood Boundaries
Tony used an ESDS Qualidata collection, SN 4841, Neighbourhood Boundaries, Social Disorganisation and Soc...

SEARCH OUR SITE GO

DEPOSIT YOUR DATA

FIND DATA

WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT US

USED OUR DATA?

If you have used our data let us know. We'd like to share your experience as a case study.

DETAILS OF DATA USE

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SUBMIT

DATA LIFECYCLE

ACCESS TO DATA: distributing, sharing, controlling access, promoting

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON HOW WE CURATE DATA?

DEPOSIT DATA FAQ

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DEPOSIT DATA OUR DATA IN USE

The Edwardians, 1870-1973

DOWNLOAD AT ESDS

How the data were used

This work used data from The Edwardians for a book, Free Trade Nation: Consumption, Commerce, and Civil Society in Modern Britain published in 2008. In his book professor Trentmann unfolds the popular culture of Free Trade. It includes stories of how ordinary people understood Free Trade and played an active role in political agitations, elections, debates and the construction of historical memory. The Edwardians data has some useful snippets showing how children and the elderly were drawn into Free Trade culture and what it meant for them.

About the data

This classic study, known as 'The Edwardians' comprises 453 digitised interview transcripts and audio recordings from life-story interviews collected in the early 1970s The interview schedule covered: roles and work of family members meals, domestic routine, child-rearing and school, emotional relationships, family values, leisure, religion and politics. The interviews are all open-ended and are between one and six hours long and formed the basis of the first national oral history project in the UK.

About the author

Frank Trentmann is Professor at Birkbeck College and Programme Director of the ESRC-AHRC Research Programme on Cultures of Consumption.

To view and download the data GO TO ESDS

CASE STUDIES USING GOVERNMENT DATA

Financial impact of A8 migration in the UK

Dustmann, C.et al. (2010) Assessing the Fiscal Costs and Benefits of A8 Migration to the UK. Fiscal Studies. 31(1): 1-41

Uses the Labour Force Survey from 2005–06 to 2008–09 to examine the financial impact of the recent migration to the UK from the Central and Eastern European countries that joined the European Union in May 2004 (A8 countries). The paper challenges the widely held idea that migrants are a drain on resources, demonstrating that the A8 immigrants are considerably less likely than natives to receive state benefits or tax credits and make a positive contribution to the public finances.

Ethnic inequalities in access to healthcare

Nazroo, J. Y. et al. (2009) Ethnic inequalities in access to and outcomes of healthcare: analysis of the Health Survey for England. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. 63: 1022-1027.

This paper uses four years of the Health Survey for England to demonstrate minimal inequalities in terms of access to primary care for hypertension, raised cholesterol and diabetes. This is finding is valuable because it implies ethnic inequalities in healthcare may be minimal in the NHS, contradicting research in the USA that has repeatedly found ethnic inequalities in access to US healthcare.

QUALITATIVE DATA

Popular Social Identities in England, 1950-2000

- Mike Savage, *Identities and Social Change in Britain since 1940: The Politics of Method* (OUP, 2010) and Mike Savage, 'Working Class Identities in the 1960s: revisiting the Affluent Worker Studies', *Sociology*, Volume 39 (5), 2005, pp. 929-946

- undertook fieldwork involving the restudy of the qualitative and archival data used in selected 'classic' works of post-war English sociology for his project on Popular Social Identities in England, 1950-2000.
-
- Mike made numerous visits to the National Social Policy and Social Change Archive at the University of Essex to use a selection of the ESDS Qualidata 'classic sociology' collections, including John Goldthorpe and David Lockwood's The Affluent Worker and Elizabeth Bott's Family and Social Network.

- he reread and coded up the data to the coding frame he developed, providing evidence for his subsequent monograph

QUALITATIVE DATA IN POST GRADUATE TEACHING

Jo Haynes, Lecturer at the University of Bristol)

- has been using numerous qualitative data collections to support her teaching of qualitative research methods. A key motivation was her desire to provide students with data, enabling more teaching time to focus on developing skills in data analysis.

- chooses studies with diverse topics, data quality and the ability to divide the dataset into subsamples of a manageable size (e.g., by participant characteristics, geography, or other features) for student projects.

- students asked to write 4,000 word reports based on their analyses. There are challenges with having students re-use existing data
  - difficult to come up with research questions different from those of the original researchers
  - quality and amount of supporting material describing the original research varies across the collections

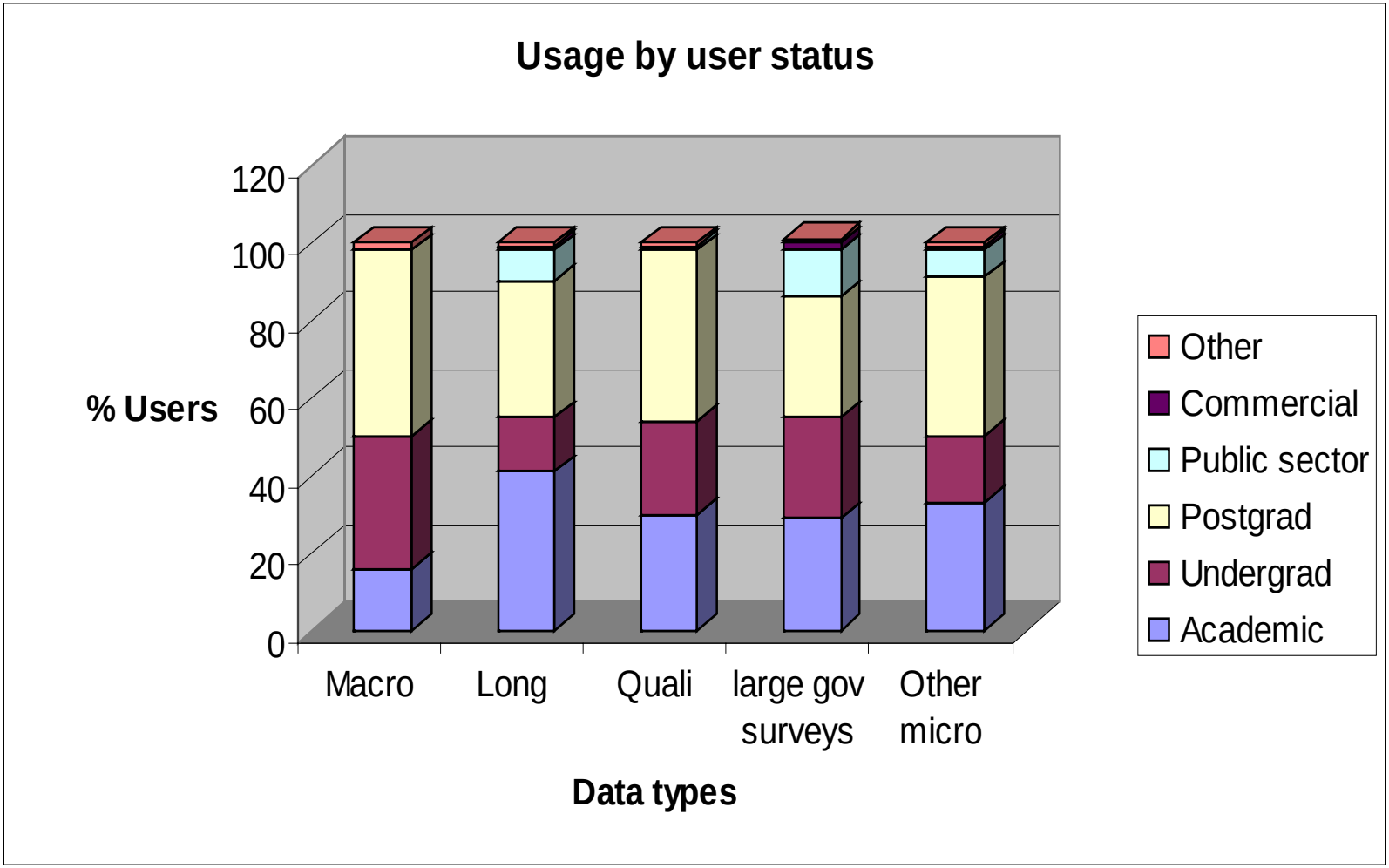
- she has been impressed by students' creativity in generating new questions for existing data, sometimes related to the initial topic but deepening its focus and, in other cases, asking new questions altogether

TIMESCAPES ARCHIVE

- working with data that span the life-course
  - 10 years of qualitative data – multi media
  - 400+ participants
  - themes include relationships, identities, family life, intimacy, care and support

- archiving and re-use built into the new study
- secondary analysis
  - bridging to external datasets (BHPS, NCDS)
  - common questions across time and samples

DATA USAGE FIGURES 2008-9



TEACHING & LEARNING SUPPORT

- existing data can help provide support in many areas of teaching research methods
- our user guides include questionnaires and detailed methodological information on fieldwork practices, sampling and data collection methods data documentation is a rich resource in its own right
- we have 35 tailor-made or sampler survey datasets for teaching purposes
  - typically subsets of the larger UK government surveys easier for students to handle
- some dedicated teaching resources using data, improve data literacy

FACILITATING SECONDARY ANALYSIS

- acquire a broader range of rich data
- make finding and obtaining data a good experience
  - powerful searching
  - safe download facility
  - online access to data
- create enhanced data and documentation
  - better context for data (cane be a problem for re-use)
  - user materials
  - case studies of deposit and re-use
- engage in active promotion, outreach, training and publishing

GETTING FUNDED FOR RE-USING DATA

- what kind of research proposals based on existing data might excite funders in this tough funding climate?

- innovative use of existing data
  - using a study's methods for comparative studies, study or questionniare design
  - using large scale survey datasets for descriptive or analytic purposes
  - using time series to studyand forecast trends
  - use for linking data to provide context and add power to your own data
  - using for training in methods skills, at all levels

WHY SHARE DATA?

- sharing and re-using research data has many benefits
  - it reduces the cost of duplicating data collection efforts
  - promotes both past and new use of existing data

- many research funders are now committed to a long-term strategy for sharing data
  - place greater emphasis on getting maximum value out of the data they supported
  - insisting on formalised data management planning

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN MAKING DATA ‘SHAREABLE'?

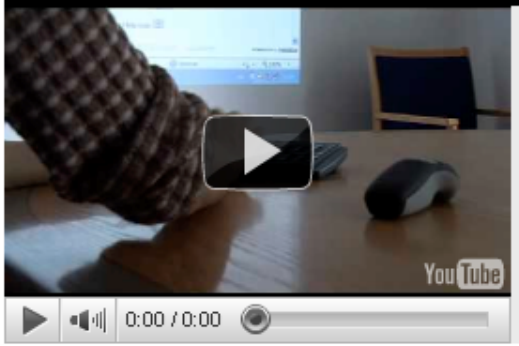
- Ethics, data description and contextualisation are important matters
  - obtaining informed consent , also for data sharing and preservation
  - protecting identities

    e.g. anonymisation, not collecting ‘personal’ (DPA) data
  - restricting / regulating access where needed (all or part of data)

    e.g. by group, use, time period
  - securely storing personal or sensitive data
  - providing description and rich context for data

CREATE & MANAGE DATA
RESEARCH DATA LIFECYCLE
STARTING YOUR RESEARCH
CONSENT & ETHICS
COPYRIGHT
DOCUMENTING YOUR DATA
FORMATTING YOUR DATA
STORING YOUR DATA
ADVICE & TRAINING
OUR PROJECTS

CREATE & MANAGE DATA



SHOW VIDEO TEXT

We facilitate data sharing. Find out about best practices for creating, preparing, storing and sharing data

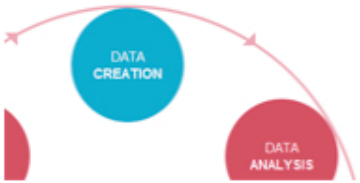
SEARCH OUR SITE GO

DEPOSIT YOUR DATA
FIND DATA
WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT US

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE ARCHIVE

5 of 8: We are a collaborative organisation supporting emerging and existing creators and users of data

RESEARCH DATA LIFECYCLE



Data often have a longer lifespan than the research project that originally created them

READ ON

STARTING YOUR RESEARCH

Get into good data habits from the moment you start planning your research

READ ON

CONSENT & ETHICS

Legal and ethical issues should be considered when using and sharing research data

READ ON

ADVICE & TRAINING

We provide guidance and training on all aspects of data management and sharing

READ ON

DISCUSS WITH US

Join us on Methodspace to discuss the latest data issues

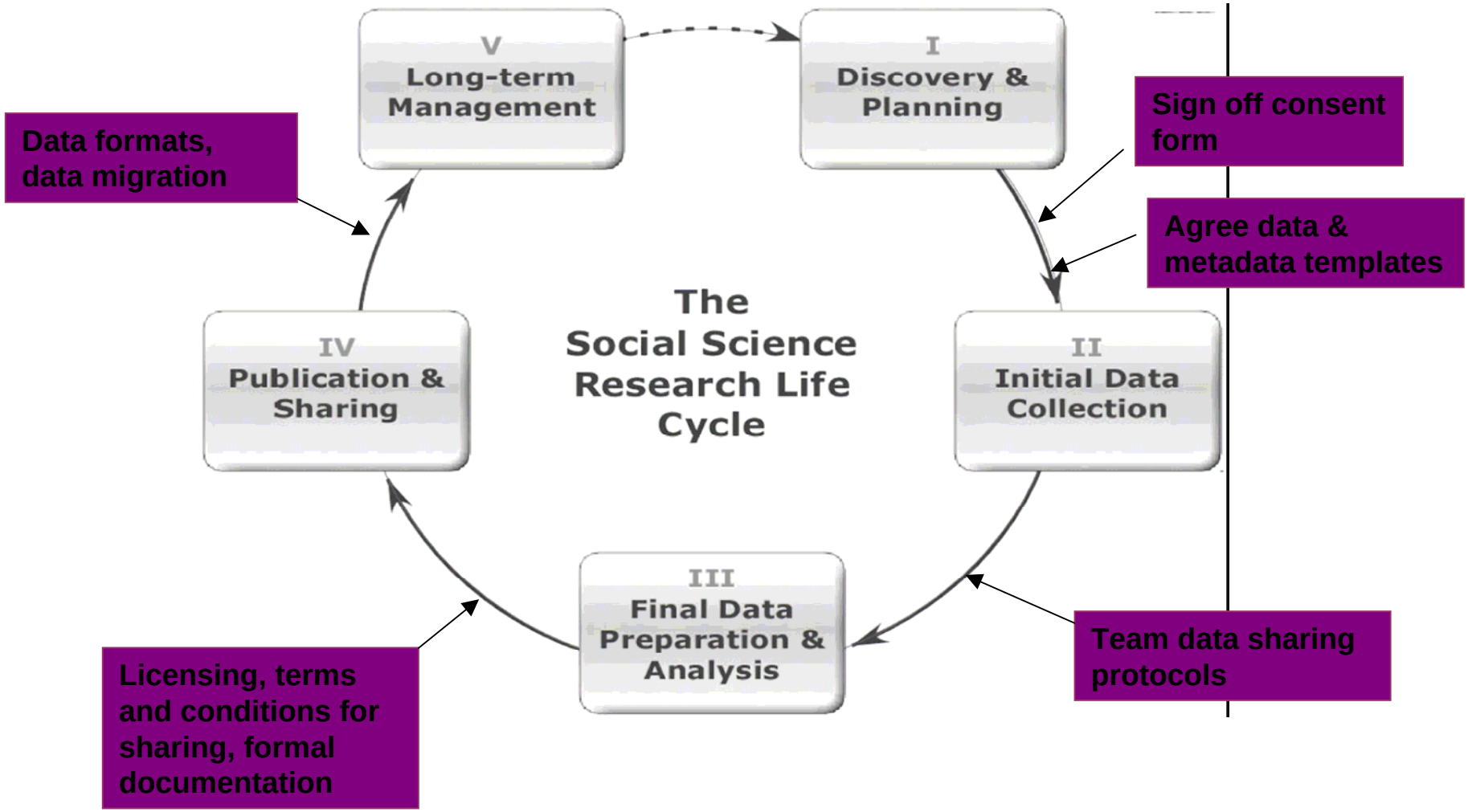
Methodspace

DOWNLOAD MANAGING & SHARING DATA BROCHURE

CREATE & MANAGE DATA FAQ

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

BRINGING TOGETHER RESEARCH AND DATA LIFE CYCLES



Green and Gutmann, 2007

GETTING CREDIT FOR SHARING DATA

- how can you get credit for sharing data in this era of obsession with measuring impact?
- a rich data collection is becoming recognsied a valid output in itself
- work underway in international level to establish formal data citation methods, like an ISDN
- opening up your data can lead to collaboration with new users, joint publication and even new funding
- sharing rarely has negative consequences

DATA POLICIES HELP SUPPORT DATA ARCHIVES

- data support centre/archive
  - provide data creation advice and training
  - Data Management Plans and consent forms reviewed
  - provide tools for research groups to share data informally

- research grant holders
  - liaise with support centres
  - consider consent for sharing data
  - do good data management plans
  - assign a proficient data manager
  - be prepared to share, realistically
  - encourage own organisation to do it better

CONTACT

UK DATA ARCHIVE
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
WIVENHOE PARK
COLCHESTER
ESSEX CO4 3SQ

T +44 (0)1206 872145
E corti@data-archive.ac.uk
www.data-archive.ac.uk