

The ESRC's social media agenda

4th SRA Social Media in Social Research Conference

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ESRC Background and Introduction



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



EPSRC

Pioneering research
and skills

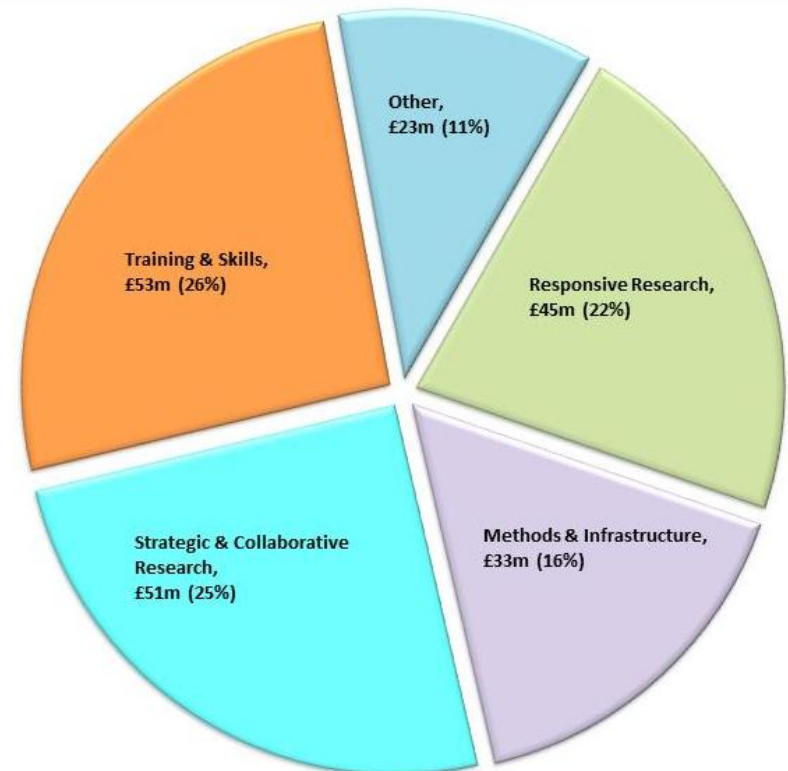


Science & Technology
Facilities Council



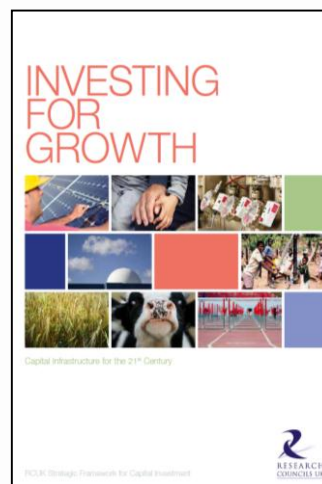
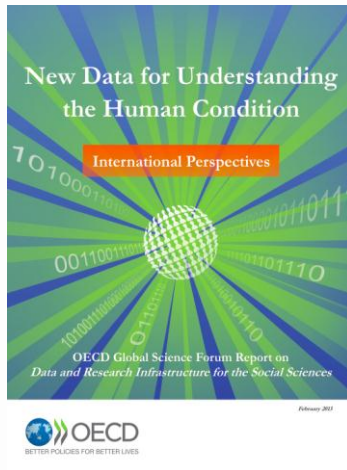
Current ESRC Funding

- ▶ Total budget for 2013/14 is £204m (BIS allocation of £181m)
- ▶ Distribution of resource budget across training, responsive and strategic is roughly equal
- ▶ Most infrastructure funding is capital, rather than resource



Distribution of ESRC funding 2013/14

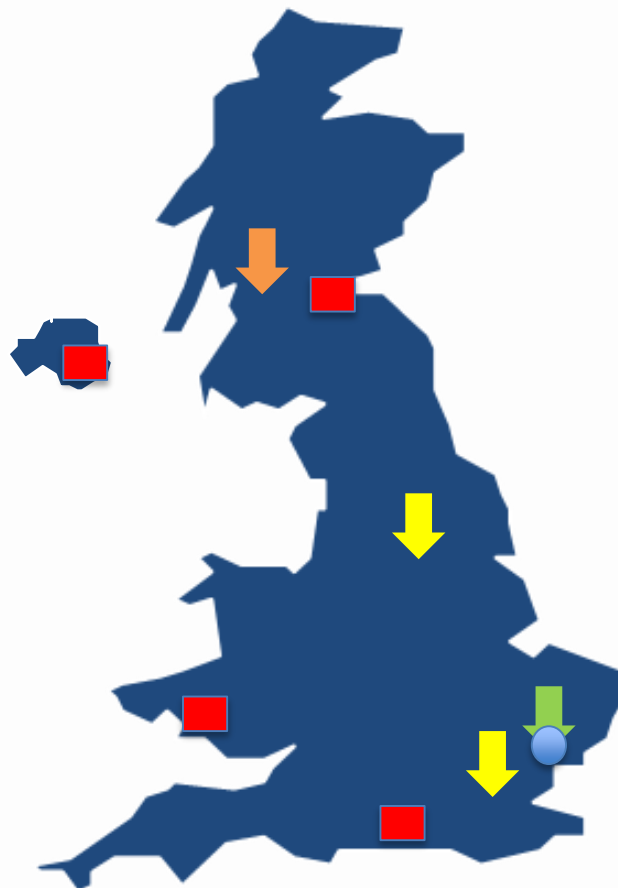
RCUK Big Data – 21st century raw material





Investment in Big Data

- ▶ Chancellor's Autumn Statement (2012) included £600m for science, research and innovation, £484m for RCUK
- ▶ Funds to support the development of innovative technologies across eight areas, including 'big data' - £189m for RCUK
- ▶ Draws from RCUK Strategic Framework for Capital Investment (published Nov 2012)
- ▶ April 2013 – ESRC earmarked £64m to support packages of activity within the 'big data' theme:
 - Administrative Data Research Network
 - Business and Local Government Data Research Centres
 - Understanding Populations

ESRC's investment in Big Data (so far!)



-  UKDS
-  ESRC Consumer Data Research Centre
-  ESRC Urban Big Data Research Centre
-  ESRC Data Research Centre for Smart Analytics
-  Administrative Data Research Network

Phase 1: Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN)

- ▶ Facilitate access to routinely collected administrative data
- ▶ Data owners – Government Departments
- ▶ Awards:
 - Four Administrative Data Research Centres (ADRCs): England, Wales, Scotland and N Ireland
 - An Administrative Data Service to coordinate the network
- ▶ Safe settings
- ▶ A UK-wide Governing Board for the network
- ▶ Researcher training and accreditation
- ▶ Public engagement strategy
- ▶ Key partnerships with National Statistical Authorities

Phase 2: Business and Local Government Data Research Centres

- ▶ Facilitate access to data held by private sectors and local government organisations
- ▶ Cross-cutting themes
- ▶ Build up – sector wide engagement (including FS)
- ▶ Infrastructure, research, training, methods
- ▶ Three Centres funded:
 - Urban Big Data Research Centre – Glasgow
 - Consumer Data Research Centre – Leeds/ UCL
 - Data Research Centre for Smart Analytics – Essex

Phase 3: Social Media and Third Sector Data

- ▶ Identified as a priority in February 2013
- ▶ Frontiers Meeting in May 2013
- ▶ Update in December 2013
 - Separating Social Media and Third Sector
 - Further scoping of the data landscape
 - Focused activities to maintain momentum
- ▶ Strategic Advisor for Data Resources (social media)

Building data infrastructure

- ▶ Digital Social Research Programme
- ▶ Cardiff Online Social Media Observatory (COSMOS)
- ▶ NCRM Methodological Innovation Projects
- ▶ Google Data Analytics for Social Sciences
- ▶ British Election Study

Building data infrastructure (cont.)

- ▶ RCUK Digital Economy Hubs
- ▶ Urban Big Data Research Centre (under BDN2)
- ▶ Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC)
- ▶ Digging into Data 'Trees and Tweets' project
- ▶ TSB Data Exploration projects
- ▶ UK Data Service

Building UK research capacity

- ▶ AQMeN Scottish Independence project
- ▶ Transformative Research grants
- ▶ EMoTICON projects
- ▶ Responsive mode/other grants

Looking ahead

- ▶ Remains a priority for ESRC
- ▶ Three strands of activity
 - Building data infrastructure
 - Building UK research capacity
 - International collaboration
- ▶ S&T Select Committee inquiry
- ▶ BIS Capital Consultation

BIS Capital Consultation

- ▶ Full consultation document:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/science-and-research-proposals-for-long-term-capital-investment>
- ▶ Responses via Citizen Space:
<https://bisgovuk.citizenspace.com/digital/consultation-on-proposals-for-long-term-capital-in>
- ▶ **Closing date: 4th July 2014**

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

