

National bibliographic databases for research output

opportunities and challenges

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context matters



Outline

Conceptual framing: bibliographic database as infrastructure

Context matters

- ENRESSH and the overview of bibliographic databases
- Variety of purposes
- Alignment between purpose and content

Conclusions

Bibliographic database as infrastructure

"fundamentally relational concept"

"[infrastructure] becomes infrastructure in relation to organized practices"

"Within a given cultural context, the cook considers the water system a piece of working infrastructure integral to making dinner; for the city planner, it becomes a variable in a complex equation"

Star & Ruhleder (1996, p. 113)

Context matters #1

ENRESSH and the overview of bibliographic databases

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ENRESSH

European Network for Research Evaluation
in the Social Sciences and Humanities
COST Action 15137

ABOUT US WORK GROUPS

LATEST NEWS

LSE Blogpost on Impact and Early Career Investigators
by Corina Balaban and Paul Benneworth
2 May 2019

Belgian ENRESSH Day Major Success!
2 May 2019

ENRESSH Co-founds Helsinki Initiative on
Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication
3 April 2019

ENRESSH launches working paper series
2 April 2019

REMINDER: CfP: RESSH 2019- THE THIRD RESEARCH
EVALUATION IN THE SSH CONFERENCE
26 March 2019

Goal: a roadmap for European bibliographic database for research output in the social sciences and humanities

Approach: European database created by integrating currently existing (national) databases

Study on
bibliographic databases for research output
in the social sciences and humanities

Survey I (41 countries)
Survey II (13 countries)
Participant observation

Data collected in 2016-2018



- National database identified and described
- National database is being implemented

Bibliographic database for
research output

a structured set of bibliographic metadata for research output

where research output is

any artifact that represents or communicates research findings

Context matters #2

Variety of purposes

Purpose

on

institutional

national

international

level

- To monitor research/publishing activities
- To evaluate research
- To calculate bibliometric indicators for research funding systems
- To showcase research
- To report to governmental bodies
- To search for literature
- To make scholarly literature retrievable
- To study processes in science (bibliometric research)
- To pursue historical research
- ...
- different requirements for content and quality

Context matters #3

Alignment between purpose and content

Purpose



- To monitor research/publishing activities
- To evaluate research
- To calculate bibliometric indicators for research funding systems
- To showcase research
- To report to governmental bodies
- To search for literature
- To make scholarly literature retrievable
- To study processes in science (bibliometric research)
- To pursue historical research
- ...

Bibliographic database
for research output
to be used for bibliometrics

a structured set of bibliographic metadata for research output
(e.g. title, author, publishing year)

where research output is
any artifact that represents or communicates research findings

And (ideally) meets these criteria:

→ Valid

→ Reliable

→ Comprehensive

→ (Based on a legal framework)

Procedures ensuring (token-level) comprehensiveness

8 databases (of 13)

Comprehensiveness is confirmed by institutions

4 databases (of 13)

Comprehensiveness is confirmed by authors and institutions

4 databases (of 13)

Comprehensiveness is not confirmed

Conclusion

Understanding of a database (or CRISs) resides in the context of its envisioned purpose

Different purposes have different requirements for the content

For integration:

Not all contextual differences in database setups are obvious

! Risk to lose crucial information upon integration

Own system: Listen to the users

Other systems: Explore contents and practices

Thank you

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