

Social Science Thesauri: HASSET and ELSST

The UK Data Archive (the Archive) has a long history of expertise in thesaurus management and development. The Archive owns and manages HASSET, the Humanities And Social Science Electronic Thesaurus. This was initially, in 1980, based on the UNESCO thesaurus; in 1997, the Archive successfully secured HASSET's IPR as an independent product.

Following this, the Archive extended HASSET into ELSST, the multi-lingual tool, both independently and with partial support from a number of EU-funded projects. The Archive retains the database rights in the arrangement of ELSST as well as the copyright in both the English extensions and several of the other translations. It is the Archive's intention to continue to exploit the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of its thesauri for the benefit of the international research community.

To achieve this, the Archive is currently undertaking a review of the licensing arrangements, management and future development of these thesauri to ensure sustained, fair and enduring availability. The review is expected to make technical recommendations about the development of the thesauri to ensure their continued access and use in a changing technological environment.

The Archive will be opening discussions with the owners of the IPR in those local extensions for which it does not have copyright, to ensure the continued accessibility of these translations for international use. It also welcomes discussion about the inclusion of additional, translated local extensions in languages not yet represented in the thesaurus. The Archive will be looking to the establishment of mutually-beneficial relationships with others who may wish to use or extend it and will welcome discussions with interested organisations.

Further announcements will be made following the review. Meanwhile, the Archive is committed to ensuring that ELSST will be available for further use within the global research community.

UK Data Archive

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