

# UKDA to host Census Portal

The UKDA is delighted to announce that it has been successful in its bid not only to continue to run the Census Registration Service (CRS) from 2006-2011, but also to host the Census Programme's new Census Portal. Work on the Portal will begin in August 2006.

In 2002 the UKDA launched the CRS, which links four of the Census Programme Units via Athens authentication and a single registration, and since 2003 has centrally managed ESDS. As the home of both ESDS Management and the CRS, the UKDA is ideally placed to effect a bridge between ESDS and the Census Programme, in order to assist users in locating the data they need.

The Census Programme currently contains six units: Census Dissemination Unit; Census Geography Data Unit (UKBORDERS); Census Interaction Data Service; Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs); Centre for Longitudinal Study Information and User Support (CeLSIUS); Census Registration Service. Professor David Martin,

University of Southampton, is the Census Programme Co-ordinator.

The Portal will play a pivotal, user-focused role in the Programme, streamlining access to the existing units and will:

- provide a single, clear gateway to the units' web sites, making the users' paths to their required data more straightforward;
- establish a series of annual workshops, bringing the census data and their various usages closer to the users;
- develop a census catalogue, making use of the existing metadata infrastructures;
- create a census expertise database.

The Portal will provide a much-needed pathway into the world of census data, taking the users both to the data themselves and to help and advice. ●

## Working with the Medical Research Council

UKDA is currently undertaking two contracts with the Medical Research Council (MRC) to assist in plans for data sharing and preservation. The MRC has recently adopted a policy which encourages data sharing to be considered the norm, and requires MRC grantholders to produce data sharing and preservation plans to demonstrate their commitment by making appropriate provision for any data they collect or create.

To facilitate this, the UKDA is undertaking to produce, in partnership with MRC, three Guides to Good Practice to assist MRC grantholders in population-based research studies with their data sharing and preservation activities. The first will include guidance for those writing and evaluating data sharing and preservation plans, and will touch on issues such as rights management frameworks, confidentiality and consent, copyright and intellectual property, and data protection and Freedom of Information legislation. The second will cover best practice in data preservation and curation, and the third will cover data management issues for medical scientists in the population-based research areas. The guides will be freely downloadable.



ALSPAC - Children of the 90s - Summer party

The UKDA is also undertaking a data audit of two major longitudinal investments by MRC: the National Study of Health and Development (aka the 1946 Birth Cohort Study) and the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC). This is in preparation for improved access for secondary users. This will result in a report which will inform the MRC's strategic decisions around Data Sharing and Preservation for these two important studies. ●

**STOP PRESS** - The European Social Survey (ESS) has won the prestigious Descartes prize, awarded by the European Commission for "excellence in scientific research". This is the first year that a social science project has won this prize. [www.esds.ac.uk/news/newsdetail.asp?ID=1488](http://www.esds.ac.uk/news/newsdetail.asp?ID=1488)

# UK Databytes

# ESDS International first annual conference

ESDS International held its first annual conference on 8 November 2005 at the Royal Statistical Society. The fully-booked event was well received by delegates who came from a wide range of educational, research and inter-governmental organisations. Comments from the day included: "interesting combination of researchers using the data and providers of ESDS International datasets" - and - "chance to network, to see how data is used in the 'real world'".

Professor Roy Carr-Hill presented 'Evidence and Development: Poverty, Literacy, HIV' and Dr Terry Barker presented 'Developing a panel database 1970-2003 for global energy-environment-economy modelling of climate change mitigation'. In addition, Tanvi Desai gave the preliminary results from the ESRC Review of International Data Resources and Needs. Presentations were also given by research students: Paul Adams, Tao Xing, and Nicole Baerg.

The international data providers session began with Eileen Capponi from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) outlining the process of adding value to statistics in her presentation 'From raw data to rich data'. Toby Green, also from

the OECD, argued that free access may not be the best way of maximising dissemination.



Toby Green, OECD

The conference closed with a presentation, 'Relevance and Applicability of the UNIDO Industrial Statistics Database for Research Purposes', by Tetsuo Yamada, Chief Statistician of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

[www.esds.ac.uk/international/news/conf2005.asp](http://www.esds.ac.uk/international/news/conf2005.asp) ●

## ESDS Government research conference

This year's annual ESDS Government research conference, organised in collaboration with the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre, was held on 4 November 2005 at the British Academy. The day showcased recent academic social capital research undertaken with ESDS Government and longitudinal micro data. The event was attended by policy makers and academics and with the help of the chair, Waqar Ahmed, and discussant, Ray Pahl, produced lively discussion.

The day started with two speakers from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Penny Babb described how ONS has produced a set of standardised social capital questions with the aid of focus groups, piloting and cognitive interviewing. Giulio Flore reported on the relationship between social capital and ethnic diversity.

Much of the day focused on academic social capital research with policy relevance. Eldin Fahmy explored the relationship between civic action and social capital among young people, and Tessa Peasgood explored subjective well-being. Papers by Nick Buck, and by John Mohan and Liz Twigg made linkages between micro and geographic data while relationships between social capital and human capital were explored in work by Yaojun Li and Jonathan Gershuny.

A full report of the day is available in the winter 2005 ESDS Government Newsletter.

[www.esds.ac.uk/government](http://www.esds.ac.uk/government) ●

## QUADS workshop

On 15 November ESDS Qualidata hosted its first workshop as co-ordinators of the Qualitative Archiving and Data Sharing Scheme (QUADS). The event focused on: the fundamentals of presenting qualitative data resources on the web; longer-term sharing and archiving; and promoting standards including building sustainable web sites,

harmonising data descriptions, and marking up data content.

Web standards are important - good practice in web design and usability builds on compliance with World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) guidelines and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Equally, metadata plays a crucial role in the identification, retrieval, management and long-term storage of digital qualitative data. Consensus is needed to ensure common ways of describing resources, so that resource discovery strategies, for example, can be pooled.

Marking up of data, using universal (eXtended Markup Language(XML))

standards, enables richer and deeper navigation, searching and retrieval at the data content level. Mark-up, at the data level, enables coded textual documents, links from text to audio excerpts, and researcher annotations, to be retained.

Mark-up is also important for longer-term storage and preservation and more complex collaborative research and e-science type exploitation.

ESDS Qualidata presented an overview of the merits of metadata for social science and proposed an XML community standard (schema) that is applicable to most qualitative data. Feedback on the schema would be welcomed. To add an applied dimension to the day, four projects, currently creating online resources for qualitative data collections using XML, provided an informal overview of their work.

[www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/news/eventdetail.asp?ID=1441](http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/news/eventdetail.asp?ID=1441) ●

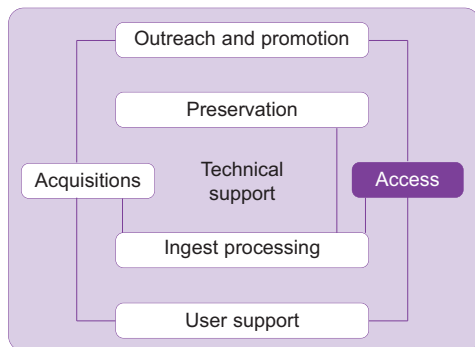


(l-r) Bruce Mason, Libby Bishop, Robert Miller, Louise Corti, Graham Gibbs

# Inside the data factory

## Access

Access to data is via centralised registration with the ESDS. Users log in to the Athens authentication service to register. Information on obtaining an Athens ID is available on the ESDS Athens help web page. Registration involves online agreement to an End User Licence (EUL) outlining the terms and conditions of use of all data accessed via ESDS.



Some data have special conditions of use associated with them that are additional to those of the EUL. These can be agreed to online. Occasionally, where data may pose a higher risk of disclosure, a Special Licence (SL) that requires written signatures is used.

Registered users can use the web site to:

- download quantitative and qualitative datasets in SPSS, Stata, ASCII, tab-delimited, Word or RTF formats;
- order datasets in other formats e.g. SAS, or via other media e.g. CD;
- order datasets from other archives worldwide (UK residents conducting not-for-profit research only);
- produce online frequencies, tabulations, graphs and pie charts for a selection of our most popular survey data (using the Nesstar online browsing system);
- search, browse and download qualitative data (using ESDS Qualidata Online);
- explore and visualise fertility and mortality data for 2001 (using ESDS Government Vital Statistics visualisation interface).

Registered users at institutes of UK higher or further education can also access online:

- ESDS International macro data (aggregate country-level databanks using Beyond 20/20);
- UK census data via various census dissemination units.

[www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/access/](http://www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/access/) ●

## Review of ESDS a success

Earlier this year, the ESRC and JISC jointly carried out a mid-term review of ESDS. The Review Panel, chaired by Dr Jeremy Harbison of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council, focused on four key areas: the achievements of ESDS (from 1 January 2003 - 31 March 2005); its relationships with funders, users and beneficiaries; the direction and management of ESDS; and future plans for the service.

As part of the review process, ESDS produced a detailed report covering its achievements, as well as setting out its future plans for the three-year period beyond its current contract that ends on 30 September 2007. To assist the Panel in its assessment of ESDS's performance, the ESRC also commissioned a survey of ESDS data users and providers. These

materials served to inform a two-day intensive site visit of ESDS.

The Panel have recommended that funding for ESDS should continue until 2010 and should be increased in real terms. In making this recommendation the Panel were particularly impressed with the energy, commitment and enthusiasm of ESDS staff and were equally impressed with ESDS achievements to date, with all aims and targets having been fully met. These recommendations have been endorsed by the ESRC's Research Resources Board and the Board will now therefore include in its Strategic Plan to Council proposals for the continued funding of the ESDS. A big well done to all those who have worked hard to make ESDS a success! ●

## New version of DDI

In mid-October the Structural Reform Group (SRG) of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Alliance met to work on the changes required to create a more modular and extensible version of the DDI metadata standard. Ken Miller from ESDS attended.

Version 3.0 of the DDI standard will consist of two parts: the conceptual model, and the XML schemas and DTDs which are derived from it. This version will also reflect a major change in the scope of the standard and is being extended to cover all aspects of the data lifecycle, from conception to re-use.

The main task of the SRG was to determine how to incorporate the recommendations from other working groups within the DDI, namely those from the Aggregate Data, Time, Geography, Instrumentation and Comparative Data groups. An initial schema should be available for testing early in 2006.

[www.icpsr.umich.edu/DDI/](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/DDI/) ●

## CESSDA experts meet in Madrid

The Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) Expert Seminar was held in Madrid on 26-28 October. Thirty-six participants from fourteen different organisations attended what was a very successful event. The main theme of the seminar was the preparing and publishing of DDI metadata. Ken Miller from ESDS gave a report on the latest planned developments of the DDI standard and how forthcoming versions might affect future procedures and already marked-up metadata. It was also decided to change the focus of the CESSDA web site from an internal resource to one also aimed at sponsors and users. ●



Royal Palace - Madrid

## Extension to MADIERA project

The Multilingual Access to Data Infrastructures of the European Research Area (MADIERA) project has been granted a three-month extension. This will allow time to finalise the nine-language multilingual thesaurus and the functionality of the MADIERA portal, which is hoped to replace the present CESSDA Integrated Data Catalogue and become the gateway to the data archives of the whole of Europe.

[www.madiera.net/](http://www.madiera.net/) ●



# AHDS History News

## AHDS explores the history of influenza

The recent concerns about the possibility of a 'Bird Flu' pandemic has led to an unprecedented level of interest in a resource held by AHDS History.

The resource looks at statistics relating to the 1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic Mortality in England and Wales, commonly referred to as the Spanish Flu Pandemic, and it provides a useful reference point for those researching the effects of potent influenza viruses.

Says Alastair Dunning, AHDS Communications Manager: "The recent interest in the resource shows how demand for historical studies can fluctuate according to a

variety of circumstances. It is the job of digital archive services such as the AHDS to maintain and disseminate such resources and to be able to respond to increased demand from users."

The resource was developed by Niall Johnson as part of his PhD project in the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge (1996-2001), and offers weekly influenza mortality (number of deaths and crude death rate) in the larger administrative areas of England and Wales for the duration of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. The data is complete for the London boroughs and the County boroughs throughout England and Wales. The other units included are by-and-large those with a population greater than 20,000, mostly metropolitan boroughs and urban districts. Also included are 'Remainder of' county figures for all other units. Those administrative counties that had no individual centres selected have an entire county value.

[ahds.ac.uk/history/collections](http://ahds.ac.uk/history/collections) ●

## Forthcoming Events

**18-20 January 2006:** Rural Economy And Land Use Programme: Enabling Knowledge Exchange, Manchester University

**19 January 2006:** Exploring the potential: examining archived data at Mass Observation and ESDS Qualidata, University of Sussex

**23 January 2006:** A consultation on the ONS Continuous Population Survey/Integrated Household Survey, Royal Statistical Society, London

**31 January 2006:** Surveys, social capital and social networks, Belfast

**1-3 February 2006:** Equality and Social Inclusion in the 21st Century: Developing Alternatives - An international multidisciplinary conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland

**1 February 2006:** National Child Development Study (NCDS) and 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70): a workshop for potential users, Institute of Education, London

**17 March 2006:** Researching Social Life: celebrating 60 years of medical sociology, Edinburgh

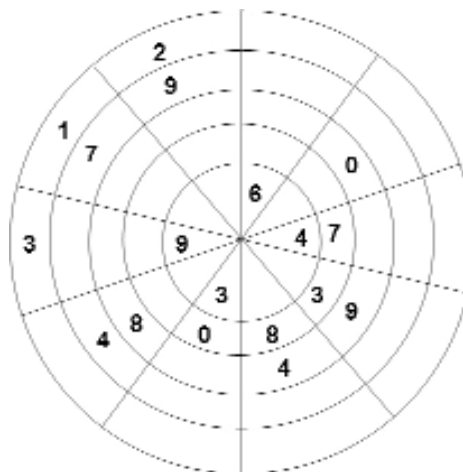
Further details of events and training courses can be found on the ESDS web site.

# Target Sudoku

Essex mathematician Professor Peter Higgins has invented a circular form of the famous Japanese number puzzles, to satisfy the demand for new and challenging variations - called Target Sudoku. He has provided UK Databytes with a puzzle especially for this edition.

The rule is that each of the ten numbers 0-9 must appear in each of the five rings and each of the ten pairs of adjacent segments.

The answer will appear on the ESDS web pages in the new year. ●



Editorial group enquiries  
Email: [publicity@esds.ac.uk](mailto:publicity@esds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872319/873159  
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

General ESDS enquiries  
Email: [help@esds.ac.uk](mailto:help@esds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872143  
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

Acquisitions  
Email: [acquisitions@esds.ac.uk](mailto:acquisitions@esds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872572/872974  
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

ESDS Government  
Email: [govsurveys@esds.ac.uk](mailto:govsurveys@esds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)161 275 1980  
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 4722

ESDS International  
Email: [international@esds.ac.uk](mailto:international@esds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)161 275 6109  
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 6071

ESDS Longitudinal  
Email: [longitudinal@esds.ac.uk](mailto:longitudinal@esds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872143  
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

ESDS Qualidata  
Email: [qualidata@esds.ac.uk](mailto:qualidata@esds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)1206 873058  
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

AHDS History  
Email: [info@history.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:info@history.ahds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872326  
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

Economic and Social Data Service  
UK Data Archive  
University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester  
Essex CO4 3SQ, UK

[www.esds.ac.uk](http://www.esds.ac.uk)



# Season's Greetings

