Preservation of Scientific Data in the Humanities

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Issues covered in presentation

- Scientific data archives in the Humanities & Social Sciences
- European situation
- Important standards relevant for preservation
- Changing research practice and influence on data archiving

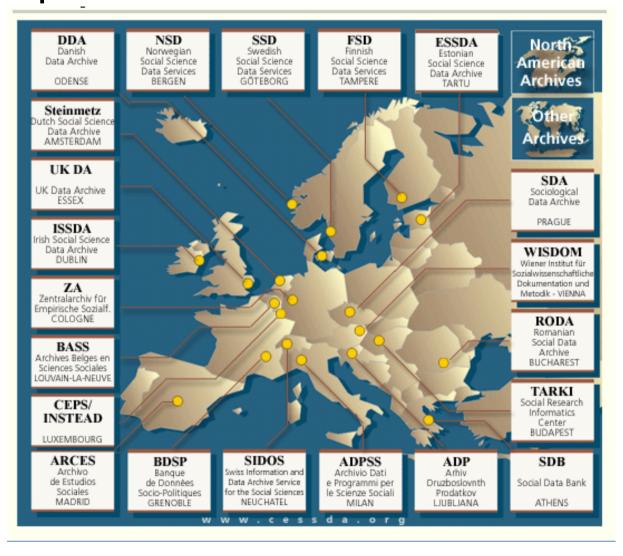


Scientific data archives in the Humanities & Social Sciences

- Humanities: branches of knowledge that are concerned with human thought and culture; the liberal arts.
- Social Science: The study of human society and of individual relationships in and to society.
- → Scientific data archives created by: Historian, Arthistorian, Archaeologist, Linguist, Sociologist, Psychologist, Anthropologist, Economist, Theologian, ...



European social science data archives



Source: http://www.nsd.uib.no/Cessda/europe.html





Mederlands

Steinmetz Archive

More information about the Steinmetz Archive

The Steinmetz Archive, founded in 1962, is part of the Netherlands Institute of Scientific Information Services - NIWI of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences - KNAW. The archive makes Dutch social science research data available to the public. Through the Steinmetz Archive, researchers in the Netherlands have also access to the collections of foreign data archives.

The Steinmetz Archive is co-ordinator of the Dutch national membership of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research - ICPSR) in the United States.

Every three months the Steinmetz Archive Newsletter Data News is published. In this newsletter the recent additions to the archive and forthcoming studies are described, as are new publications and events. The Steinmetz Archive Newsletter is free.

Other services

- By order of others and at it's own initiative the Steinmetz Archive makes compilations of datasets. By order of others the Steinmetz Archive can make analyses of archived data. Visitors can - by appointment - also analyse data at the NIWI/Steinmetz Archive premises.
- The Steinmetz Archive plays an important role in defining metadata and participates in various international telematica- and metadataprojects.
- Students and employees of institutes that participate in the national membership of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research - ICPSR, can participate in the Summer Program in Quantative Methods in Ann Arbor, Michigan - USA. The Steinmetz Archive co-ordinates participation from the Netherlands.
- Steinmetz Archive organises 'user-days', workshops and international congresses.

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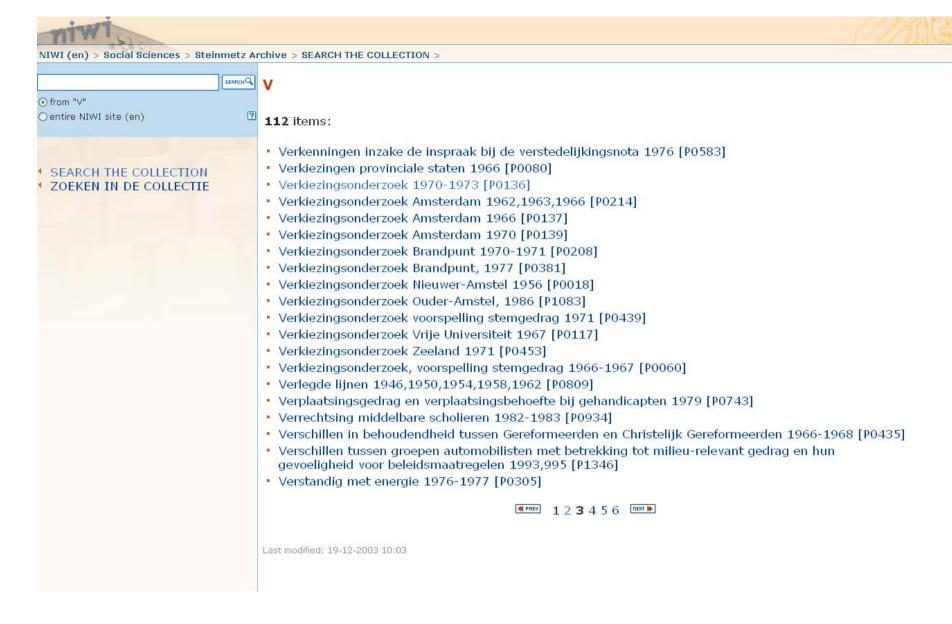
Prof.Dr. Sebald Rudolf Steinmetz 1862-1940

S.R. Steinmetz was from 1907 Professor in de political geography, cultural anthropology and ethnology of the East Indian Archipel at the University of Amsterdam.

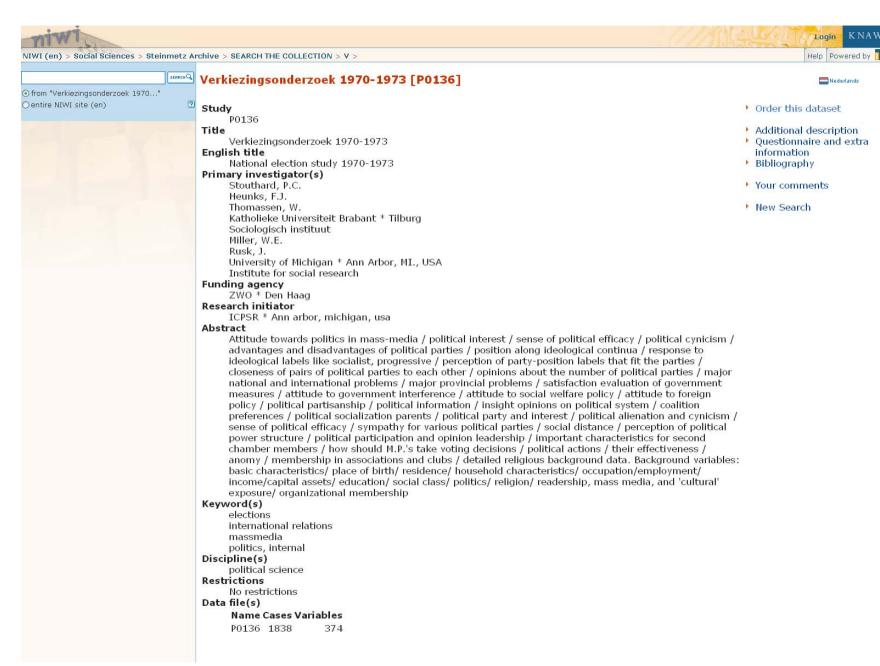
He can be seen as one of the founders of the social-cultural sciences in the Netherlands.





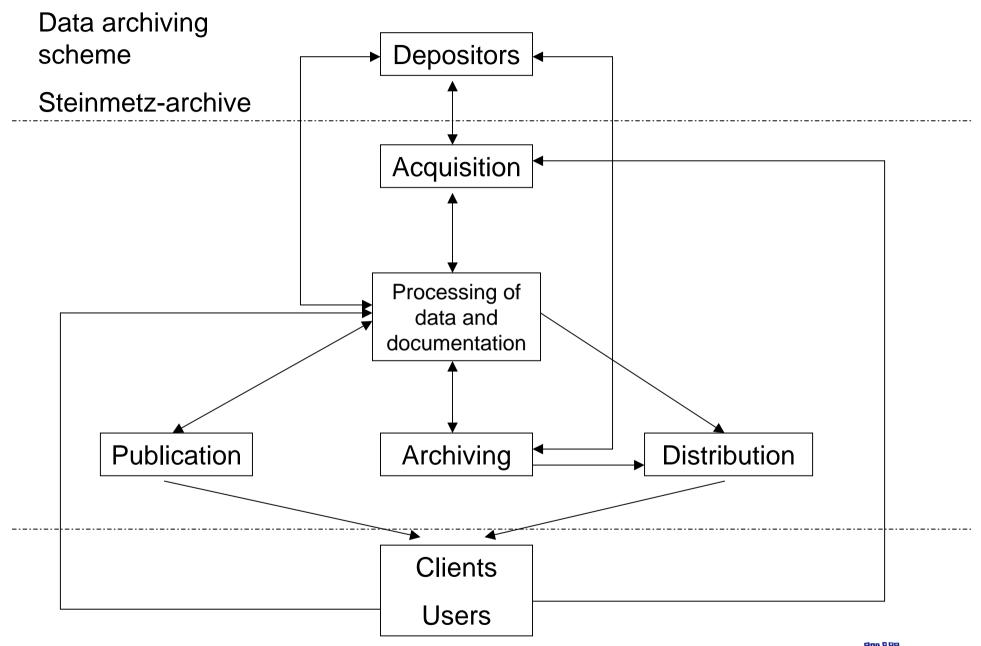
















Electronic text archives

- E.g. Oxford Text Archive, established
 1976 (http://www.ota.ahds.ac.uk/)
- Importance of TEI (Text Encoding Initiative), standard for describing content, context and structure of electronic texts (see: http://www.tei-c.org)



Historical Data Archives

- Both structured and unstructured data
- Archiving routines based on Social Science Data Archives
- Source oriented computing vs. problem oriented computing and its impact on data archiving methods
- Importance of relation Dataset Historical Source



Public Record Offices

- Relative recent interest in digital archiving
- **Definition issues** (Record management standard ISO 15489 defines business principles behind records management and defines how organizations can establish a framework to enable a comprehensive records management programme)
- Adoption of principle of provenance in digital environment



International situation

- International collaboration
 - IFDO (International Federation of Data Organisations)
 - CESSDA (Council of European Social Science Data Archives)
- User oriented organisations
 - AHC (Association for History & Computing)
 - ACH/ALLC (Ass. for computers in the Humanities / Ass. for literary & linguistic computing)



CESSDA

COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ARCHIVES



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Welcome

Welcome to the CESSDA (Council of European Social Science Data Archives) home pages. CESSDA promotes the acquisition, archiving and distribution of electronic data for social science teaching and research in Europe. It encourages the exchange of data and technology and fosters the development of new organisations in sympathy with its aims. It associates and cooperates with other international organisations sharing similar objectives.

The CESSDA home pages allow easy access to the catalogues of member organisations and provide a central news forum about its activities and other relevant information.

CESSDA GOALS AND TASKS

- To promote the acquisition, archiving and distribution of electronic data for social science teaching and research in Europe
- To encourage the exchange of data and data related technology
- To provide users access to multiple data sources across national boundaries
- To support the compilation of internationally comparative data sets
- To support the development of new organisations in sympathy with CESSDA's aims

Furthermore to promote

- the development and use of metadata standards for the management of data
- the development and use of social science thesauri and user friendly interfaces





Important standards

- OAIS (helps to establish common vocabulary)
- DDI (Data Documentation Initiative, technical documentation for social science data (http://www.icpsr.umich/DDI).
- TEI (Text Encoding Initiative)
- XML based standards, e.g. METS
- EAD (Encoded Archival Description) (http://www.loc.gov/ead/)
- ISAD (International Standard for Archival Descriptions) (http://www.ica.org/biblio/cds/isad_g_2e.pdf)



data a project of the social science community A project of the social science A project of the social scien

About the Specification

About the DDI Alliance

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The Data Documentation Initiative is an international effort to establish a standard for technical documentation describing social science data. A membership-based Alliance is developing the DDI specification, which is written in XML.

The DDI has received external support from the National Science Foundation (NSF award SES0136447) and Health Canada.







Changing research practices and influence on data archiving

- Scholars working together in networked environment ("collaboratory" / "sharium")
- Data archives must be active at the beginning of the life cycle
- Central vs. distributed models of storage
- Open Access

