

E-DATA & RESEARCH

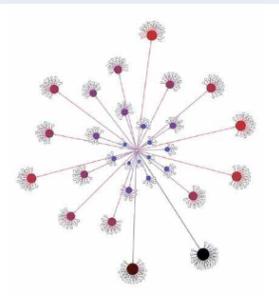
Special issue
2014/2015

Newsletter on data and research in the social sciences and humanities.

E-data & Research is published three times a year. This special issue is sponsored by DANS.

CONTENTS

- 2 Memories of fifty years of Dutch data archiving
- 3 Secure research data with one click of a button
- 3 My son asked me what it was like to do a PhD
- 4 Visualizing is no longer the privilege of experts



- 5 Crosas and King on The Dataverse Network



- 6 How much science is there?
- 7 The ideal world of the fellows of DANS
- 8 Barend is talking about taking data to Broadway



Use your smart-phone to scan this QR code and visit our website edata.nl

The Dutch Data Prize is all about shared data

And the winner is...

Not everyone is aware of the importance of sharing research data. The Dutch Data Prize gives us the opportunity to express our appreciation for researchers who share the data they have collected, processed, curated and made available for others to use.

Both the quantity and the quality of the nominations have grown since the Data Prize was first awarded in 2010. All kinds of researchers and research groups want to demonstrate the painstaking work they have carried out to create wonderful data for innovative research. Of course there can only be one winner, although in a sense all data-sharing researchers are winners. They deserve more credit for making data available to the community, since this is arguably more important than the umpteenth publication in a formally peer-reviewed journal.

Great to see

The Dutch Data Prize is an initiative taken by Research Data Netherlands (RDNL), the national coalition of organizations with a mission to promote long-term archiving and reuse of research data. Although RDNL is a young and growing consortium, it builds on 50 years of data archiving and data sharing in the



Drawing Auke Herrema

Netherlands. We have come a long way and it is great to see so many researchers sharing their data and encouraging others to do so too.

International data awards

Jury members had the difficult task of evaluating 30 nominations in the humanities and social sciences, and 16 nominations in the technical, natural and life sciences, all from the Netherlands. Would it not be great to take this Dutch initiative to an international level? The Digital Preservation Coalition in the UK has

Digital Preservation awards; perhaps the Research Data Alliance could honour the champions of open research data by establishing international data awards.

This E-data & Research special edition is an initiative of DANS, but above all it is a co-production of people around the globe who express their vision of our joint challenges. Let's consider these challenges. Let's discuss the issues together. Today, tomorrow, this week, and in the months and years to come.

peter.doorn@dans.knaw.nl

Learn more about Horizon 2020 and Science 2.0

'Big data is definitely here to stay; the question is how we deal with it'

Learn more about Horizon 2020 and Science 2.0 from Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General of the European Commission's DG Research & Innovation.

How important is European research and innovation for researchers and their data?

"Affordable and easy access to the results of the research we fund is important for the scientific community and for innovative businesses. What is at stake is the speed of scientific progress and the return on R&D investment which has enormous potential for boosting productivity, competitiveness and growth. Therefore, all projects receiving Horizon 2020 funding – our new €80 billion research and innovation programme – will have the obligation to make sure peer reviewed publications (primarily journal articles) are openly accessible, free of charge. As for open access to research data, we have launched a limited pilot action in selected areas of Horizon 2020. Other projects outside these core areas may join the pilot on a voluntarily case-by-case basis. However, we also recognise that there are good reasons for not making data openly available and all projects therefore also have the opportunity to opt out of the pilot at any stage."

What are the obstacles for the ideal European research and innovation environment?

"With only 7% of the world population, Europe is still producing one third of the world's knowledge. This is very impressive for such a small continent. However, to remain competitive with our science base, we need to tackle the existing barriers that hamper our science and innovation system. For this reason, the EU has launched the Innovation Union, one of the flagship initiatives of the EU's growth strategy for the decade, Europe 2020, which is aimed at putting in place the right framework conditions such as the unitary patent, faster standard setting and a European Passport for venture capital funds."

What is the advantage of Horizon 2020 for researchers? How can they get involved?

"Horizon 2020 brings together all of the Union's funding for research and innovation. It offers researchers more opportunities for collaboration and promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. It couples research and innovation in many different areas to find solutions to the grand societal challenges for citizens. It is open to all researchers of the world, has a simple structure and red tape has been reduced dramatically."

Is the data explosion of the last few years a hype or are the data here to stay?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Sharing data: good for science, good for you >>



1. Neelie Kroes, EU Commissioner for the Digital Agenda: "My vision is clear and straightforward. Open access to scientific information. And this will allow all of us to get the most benefit from science. For education, for innovation and for whatever creative reuse people can think of."
2. All scientists put a lot of effort into collecting and processing data. And quite rightly so. But what happens next, after publication? How do they store their research data? Are they simply stashed away somewhere, casually? Or stored permanently, accessibly?