Data Discovery in Social Sciences

OS Fair 2019

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CESSDA

09/16/2019

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Content based on the
Data Management Expert Guide

Chapter 7: Discover
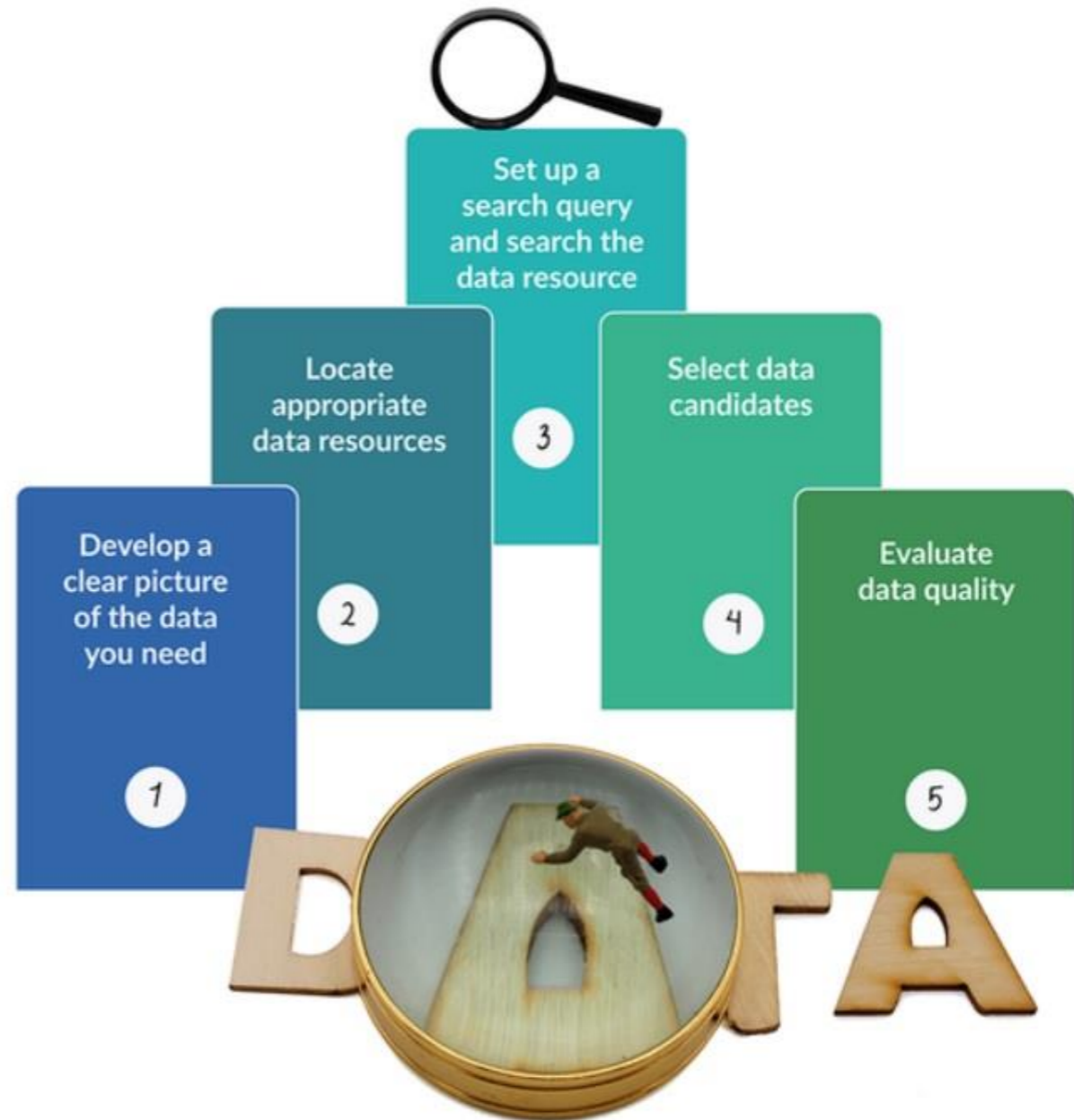
www.cessda.eu/DMEG

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Process of data discovery

Social science data?

Mostly **survey data** = quantitative, responses to questionnaire items

Qualitative data: texts from in-depth interviews, focus groups (much less available)

1. Picture of the **data you need**

MAKE CLEAR:

Why do you need the data? Research, teaching

Your research question(s)? "Are anti-immigrant sentiments related to age and education?"

Type of data? Quantitative/Qualitative

Variables? Availability, exact wording, level of measurement

Population? 18+ citizens of a country/many countries, single mothers etc.

Other characteristics

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2. Find **data resource**

Registries of data repositories:
- Re3data.org
- OpenDOAR (Directory of Open Access Repositories)
- OpenAire
- Fairsharing

Specialized search engine: Google dataset search (not good)
Metadata aggregators:
- DataCite
- DataSearch

Domain aggregated data catalogues:
Social Sciences = CESSDA Data Catalogue (not fully functional yet)

Scholarly journals:
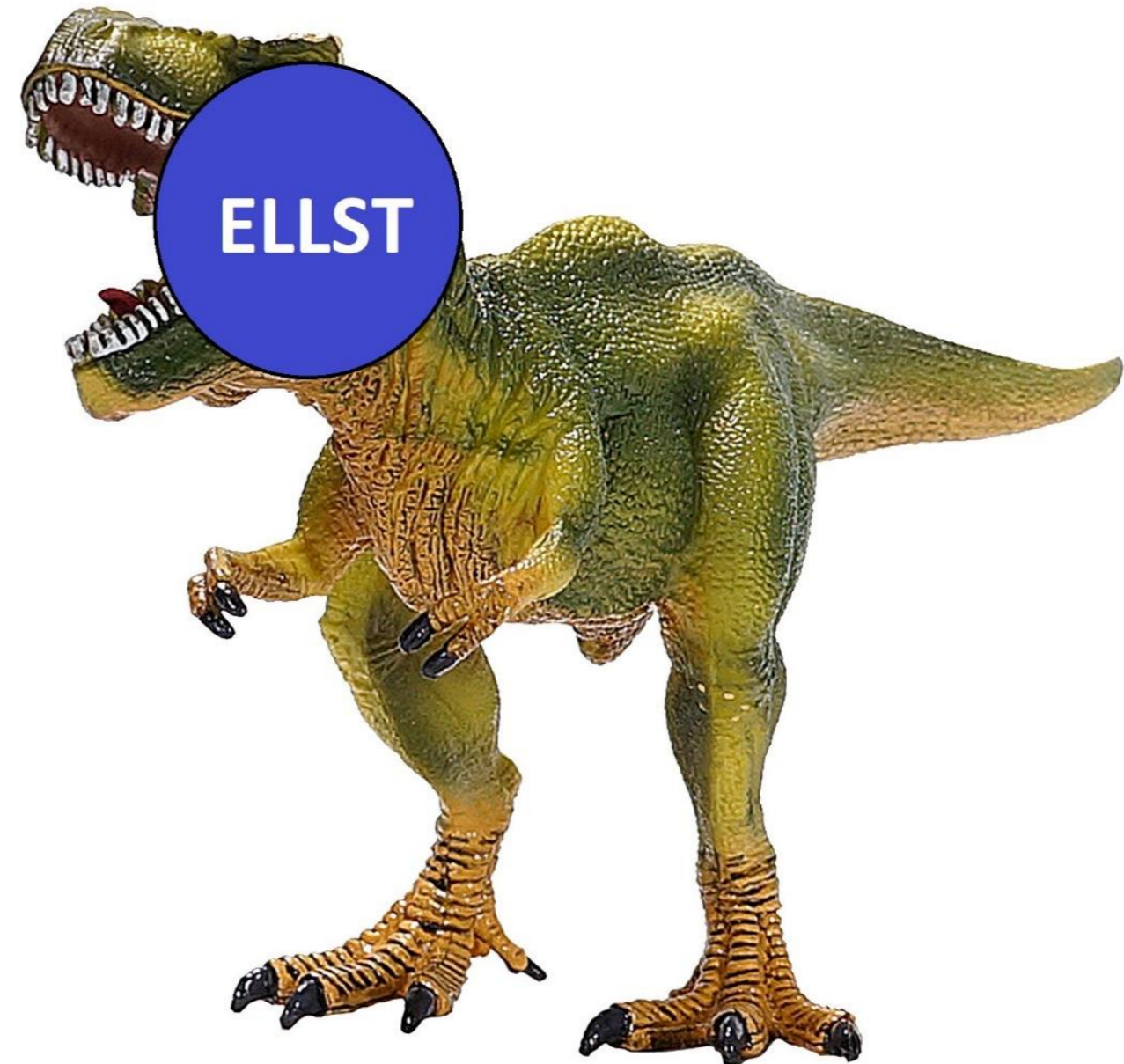- Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Scientific data

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3. Set up a search query and search the archive

Search query -> Find the **right keywords**

ELSST:
European Language **Social Science Thesaurus**

Helps you find appropriate terms

4. Select data that conform to your demands

Adjust search query in case not suitable data were found

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5. Evaluate the quality of data

Read metadata before downloading the data!

The necessary information:
- Who collected data, where and when?
- Mode of data collection etc.
- Trusted repositories (CESSDA archives, Core Trust Seal)

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Data access:

Various data access policies:
- Open
- Open after registration
- Open under specific terms and conditions
- Embargo

Think about costs related to data access (traveling to the data archive)

Citing data:

DON´T FORGET TO CITE THE DATA!

Format of data citation recommended by DataCite organization

Creator (PublicationYear). Title. Version. Publisher. ResourceType. Identifier

Example in APA style for European Working Conditions Survey, 2015

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. (2017). *European Working Conditions Survey*, 2015. [data collection]. *4th Edition.* UK Data Service. SN: 8098, http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8098-4

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Use case:
Finding and using data on political culture

Relationship between political culture and democracy: Replication of the study by Muller and Seligson (1994)

Model = relations between GDP, Support for societal reform, level of democracy in the country etc.

To be tested comparatively (how it works in different countries of the world?)

Crucial variable: Support for societal reform -> to find it archives

Questionnaire item:
"On this card are three basic kinds of attitudes vis-a-vis the society we live in. Please choose the one which best describes your own opinion.

1) Society must be radically changed
2) Society must be gradually improved by reforms
3) Society must be valiantly defended"

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Use case: Finding and using data on political culture

Data resources: Four different large-scale cross-national surveys

WVS (World Values Survey)
EVS (European Values Study)
LAPOP (Latin American Public Opinion Project)
Eurobarometer

Data from several research projects were combined and the model tested

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Thank you for your attention

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