

Re-purposing survey data sources for teaching and learning

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Aims and Challenges

- encourage HE/FE institutions to actively take a role in **defining the kinds of content** that would best fit their learning aims
- challenge to **demonstrate** how UKDA materials can be re-used to support learning
- **pedagogical outcomes** at the heart of the programme - focus on learning activities and outcomes
- explore sustainability and widespread adoption of e-learning materials - by **unlocking the potential** of complementary areas of work

Meeting the objectives of Strand A

- assemble "chunks" of content which can be identified as learning objects to create new learning materials
- make more direct connections between available resources and the 16+ curriculum and to create learning pathways
- document the processes used to re-purpose learning materials and to provide case studies and exemplars
- test the usability of materials within the context of an institutional environment
- submit these learning materials for sharing to suitable learning materials repository
- tag/catalogue the 'learning objects' using appropriate metadata
- to trial and evaluate their use within the community

Initial challenges

- not a widely established history of JISC service providers working closely with FE institutions
- some instances - EDINA/MIMAS with NLN
- UK Data Archive
 - few active links with FE (16-18)
 - no dedicated resources/staff expertise to support this community explicitly
 - occasional seminars run largely about resource discovery and data potential
- hence many 'consortia' formed overnight
- Not sufficient time before hand to 'get to know each other' well

UK Data Archive Project

- UKDA has rich stock of data sources that we would like to encourage the use of in T&L
- formed a consortia ...
 - University of Essex Government Department
 - local FE college Social Science department
- project focus on teaching politics at undergraduate and A' level (16-18 academic qualification) levels

Exploiting UK survey data sources for teaching political science: experiences from the classroom

Project rationale

- UK academic community has access to a unique and expansive range of **digital data resources**
- whilst individual datasets used extensively in academic research they are **significantly under used** in T&L programmes within HE, and rarely used in Further Education
- UKDA has the potential to offer its resources to the T&L communities for developing **more 'packaged' resources** BUT needs the advice and **input from instructors in the classroom** on how to re-purpose and apply the content
- widely recognised in the UK that the **skills shortage of quantitative analysts** is now critical - introducing concepts early on in post-16 education is one way to redress this shortage

Project objectives

- produce **teaching datasets** from more complex socio-economic datasets
- develop integrated web-based T&L resources that link together **resource discovery tools**, and **data exploration and extraction tools** (NESSTAR) with **teaching materials** that help address substantive issues for political science teaching
- gain evaluation and feedback from piloting this re-purposed content - political science teachers and students
- suggest models for **improving the productivity** of teachers by reducing the resources required to incorporate data related resources into T&L
- **promote increased and more effective use** of a national data services for problem-based learning in the classroom

Course aspects covered

- Substantive areas: national issues/controversies in politics
 - voting behaviour
 - crime and social order
 - race and immigration
- Empirical orientations: research methods in politics
 - potential of survey data to answer questions
 - survey measurement; sampling
 - basic data management/basic data analysis
 - resource discovery skills
- Essex HE course already combines these components
- Local college course does not 'use' data; no hands on data manipulation; no aim to improve statistical literacy

Datasets selected

- Plan to use British Election Studies
- BUT FE syllabus dropped voter behaviour module SO using British Crime Survey and British Social Attitudes Survey
- Create mini cut-down teaching datasets for BCS and BSA - publish in NESSTAR

Materials to be created

- Web-based learners' and teachers' guides - tutorials and exercises
- User guides to aid resource discovery, web-based data extraction and data exploration/visualisation of the teaching datasets via the NESSTAR software suite, suitable for student use
- Enhancement of the teaching datasets and learning text/exercises through adding and linking other relevant information sources
- Metadata of the learning objects for submission to the Repository
- A fully documented 'warts and all' report on the processes used to re-purpose and pilot the learning materials

Metadata

- Will use **UK Common Metadata Framework (UKCMF)**
- Keeping abreast of developments
- Important to learn from other X4L projects
- But not quite ready...

Future steps

- Advocate collaboration with other e-learning projects
- Recommend sharing of modules/components instead of re-investing the wheel
- Share best stories/practice
- Use JISC service provider (**ESDS**) to promote X4L project experiences and the specific learning materials created for this particular project
- Facilitate collaborative working via the **IASSIST** Education Committee (similar mission)