European databases and repositories for Social Sciences and Humanities research output
exploring comprehensiveness

Linda Sīle (presenter, PhD Candidate in Social Sciences), Janne Pölönen, Gunnar Sivertsen, Raf Guns, Tim Engels
Outline

Method

Findings #1
- Overview of databases
- Defining national database for social sciences and humanities research output
- Defining comprehensiveness

Findings #2
- Overview of the comprehensiveness of databases

Final thoughts
Method
Method

Within the framework of the COST action «European Network for Research Evaluation in Social Sciences and Humanities» (ENRESSH, www.enressh.eu)

Scope: 41 European countries
Main sources of data: two questionnaires, interviews, scholarly literature, grey literature.

Questionnaire #1: identification of national databases
Questionnaire #2: detailed description of comprehensiveness

Data collection period: August 2016 – ongoing
Collaborators in the second survey

(in alphabetical order):

- Pavel Arefiev, Scientific Electronic Library - cLIBRARY.RU, Russia
- Kasper Bruun, Ministry of Higher Education and Science, Denmark
- Marta Dušková, Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Slovakia
- Gennady Eremenko, Scientific Electronic Library - cLIBRARY.RU, Russia
- Lotte Faurback, Ministry of Higher Education and Science, Denmark
- Viktor Glukhov, Scientific Electronic Library - cLIBRARY.RU, Russia
- Andras Holl, MTMT, Hungary
- Emanuel Kulezycki, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
- Bojan Macan, Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Croatia
- Gustaf Nelhans, University of Borås, Sweden
- Michal Petr, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
- Marjeta Pisk, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia
- Hanna-Mari Puuska, CSC – IT Center for Science Ltd., Finland
- Svetlana Shabanova, Scientific Electronic Library - cLIBRARY.RU, Russia
- Sandor Soos, MTMT, Hungary
- Jadranka Stojanovski, University of Zadar / Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Croatia
- Ari Stone, The Council for Higher Education, Israel
- Davor Šoštarić, Institut informacijskih znanosti IZUM, Slovenia
- Jaroslav Šušol, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
- Ruth Teitelbaum, The Henrietta Szold Institute, Israel
- Mimi Urbanc, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia
Findings #1
Responses received from 39 (out of 41) countries.

23 existing databases identified and described

**Green** – national database exists

**Blue** – national databases currently implemented

**Grey** – no national database
Definition of a national database for research output

- **Valid**: Database records refer to existing research output.
- **Comprehensive**: Database represents the total volume of the (social sciences and humanities) research output of a country.
- **Reliable**: Data collection and registration method provides accurate and traceable information.
Comprehensiveness

(differences in the) comprehensiveness of national databases

Field  Institution  Research theme  Author  Research output  Item

Scholarly publications  Other types of output
Type  Language  Accessibility
Comprehensiveness

National database for research output within the social sciences and humanities

(1) includes

(a) all academic disciplines within social sciences and humanities defined as...
(b) all research-active institutions defined as...
(c) all research themes defined as...
(d) all authors defined as...
(e) all types of research output defined as...
...
in a country X.

(2) contains all records that meet the definitions in (1)
Minimum requirements for comprehensiveness

- Includes not only open-access research output
- Includes more than one research output type
- Includes research output in more than one language

Grey – databases that meet the criteria
Green – databases included in the second stage of the study
Findings #2
Time span for research output included in the databases

*Overview is based on the coverage all years within the sub-periods
Research output types and audience

All (13) databases include data on:
- Journal articles
- Monographs
- Articles or chapters in books
- Edited books

12 of 13 databases include data on:
- Articles in conference proceedings
Academic disciplines and language

Database includes all disciplines within Social Sciences and Humanities

- Yes: 1
- No: 12

Database includes research output in any language

- Yes: 1
- No: 12
Range of research-active institutions included

1 – All publicly funded universities
2 – All universities
3 – All publicly funded higher education institutions
4 – All higher education institutions
5 – All publicly funded research active institutions (HEI, government, commercial, not-for-profit sectors)
6– All research active institutions

Adjustments:
+0.5 Included some institutions within the next more inclusive category
+1 Included all institutions of one subtype within the next more inclusive category
Internationally mobile authors

50%

6 of 12** databases include research output from periods when an author has been affiliated to a foreign institution

** Information was not available for 1 database.
(all) Types

(all) Tokens

?
Procedures ensuring comprehensiveness

Completeness is confirmed by authors
- Yes: 1
- No: 4
- Not applicable: 7

Completeness is confirmed by reporting institutions
- Yes: 1
- No: 3
- Not applicable: 8

Completeness is confirmed by authors and reporting institutions
- Yes: 4
- No: 1
- Not applicable: 8

Completeness is not confirmed
- Yes: 1
- No: 4
- Not applicable: 8
Procedures ensuring comprehensiveness

Data reporting is mandated on national or institutional level
- Yes: 5
- No: 8

Data are used for research evaluation purposes
- Yes: 5
- No: 8

Data are used to calculate bibliometric indicators for research funding allocation purposes
- Yes: 2
- No: 11
Final thoughts
To sum up,

The presented study has led to:

1. An overview of national databases for (social sciences and humanities) research output in Europe
   a. A more detailed conceptualisation of national databases for research output

2. Insight into the comprehensiveness of 13 databases
   a. A more detailed conceptualisation of Comprehensiveness of databases for research output.
Implications for bibliometrics

(1) Specifics of databases have to be taken into account in bibliometric research

Aspects of particular importance:
- Purposes of databases
- Contexts of databases
- Database setups

(2) Differences in databases have to be further explored
Ongoing work

- Survey on comparability of databases
- Bibliometric comparison of social sciences and humanities in 11 European countries
- Qualitative inquiry into classifications of academic disciplines and publication types
Thank you!

The report of the first stage of the survey on databases:


Further questions: linda.sile@uantwerpen.be