



Between Dream and Deed: Access to Research Data for the Humanities and Social Sciences in The Netherlands

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Willem Elsschot (1882-1960)



- Famous poem "The Marriage" (1910)
- "In between dream and deed, there are laws and practical objections"

Contents

- A few words on DANS
- Open Access: between dream and deed
- How open is access to research data in the Netherlands?
- Impediments to access
- How to remove the impediments?

What is DANS?

- DANS is set up to improve access to research databases, and to guarantee long-term access to such databases, by researchers in the social and behavioural sciences and in the humanities.
- DANS is a joint initiative of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).
- The aim of DANS is to boost the degree of collaboration with researchers and between researchers, both within and across disciplines.

Why was DANS set up?

- to ensure a better match between the supply of data archives and the demands of researchers
- to upgrade the technology of archiving and the data infrastructure
- for greater efficiency, by creating a single 'service desk' for researchers and data producers that will cluster previously fragmented activities

Mission

- DANS aims to create a single, transparent data infrastructure of outstanding quality
- DANS intends to be the foremost national facility for research data
 - Researchers will be able to turn to DANS for data, regardless of where those data have been produced or where they are stored and made accessible. They will also be able to rely on the quality and continuity of up-to-the-minute data.
 - A selection of the data will be harmonised and standardised in close collaboration with researchers

Organisation

- The Academy and NWO share responsibility for DANS in a joint governance structure.
- DANS will take the form of a network with a strong centre.
 - the DANS Centre is responsible for continuity, organisation and support of the data infrastructure
 - researchers will play a decisive role in developing DANS by participating in decentralised “topical programmes” (TOPs)
 - Stimulating self-archiving by the researchers is an important aim

Legal landscape & data archiving

- Archive law
 - No clear policy by universities and academic institutes ('Digital Academic Heritage')
 - National Archives does not select research data for archiving
- Law on (the Central Bureau of) Statistics
- Copyright law
- Dutch data bank law (implementation of European guideline)
- Privacy legislation: Personal data protection act
- Public access act (to government information)

Additional rules and regulations

- Moral and scientific duty of scholars to make their research “checkable”
- Declarations of intent and codes of conduct by many scientific organisations
- International agreement on transborder data delivery among data archives
- OECD Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding: ondertekend door Nederlandse regeering
- Berlin Declaration on Open Access: signed by many research organisations
- DANS:
 - obligatory deposit of research data in trusted digital repositories
 - stimulate “open access” to research data
 - data “seal of approval”

Public Access to Public Data

- Title of 1985 IASSIST conference (Amsterdam)!
- Theory and practice differ a lot
- Effect of privatization of former government services
- 1990s: profit principle – government agencies had to earn back part of their costs through user agreements
- Scientific Statistical Agency was set up to guarantee access to public data in CBS (Statistics Netherlands) and other agencies

Barriers to data access

- Privacy
 - In survey data
 - In historical and contemporary registration data (e.g. censuses, population registers)
- Payment for data (also from public funding!)
- Researchers unwilling to share data
 - Credits & copyright
 - Work load
- Lack of organisation and unclear roles & responsibilities
- Data is getting lost

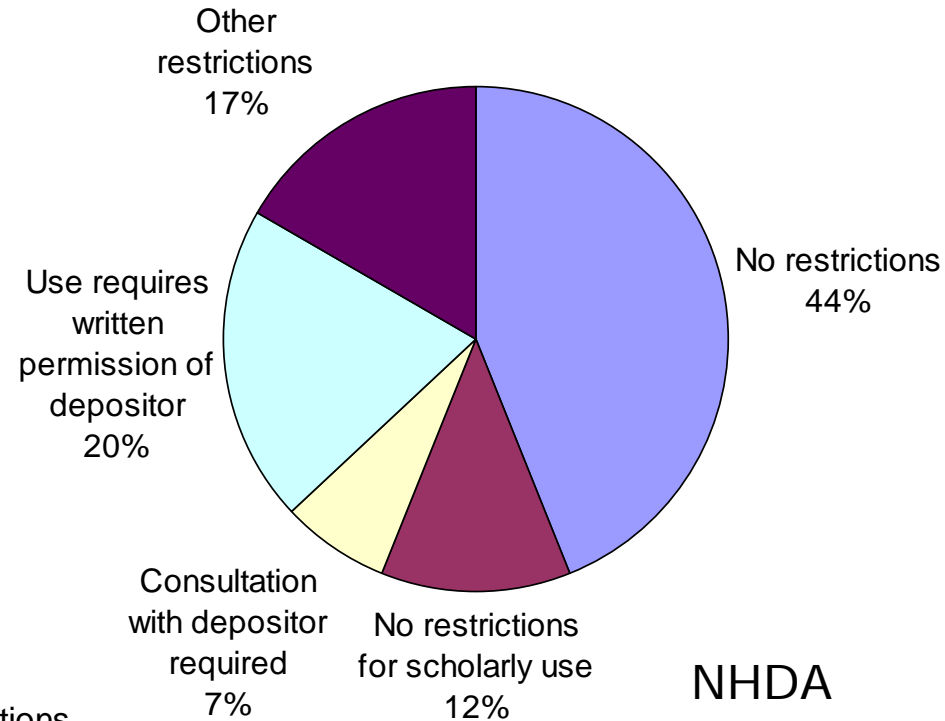
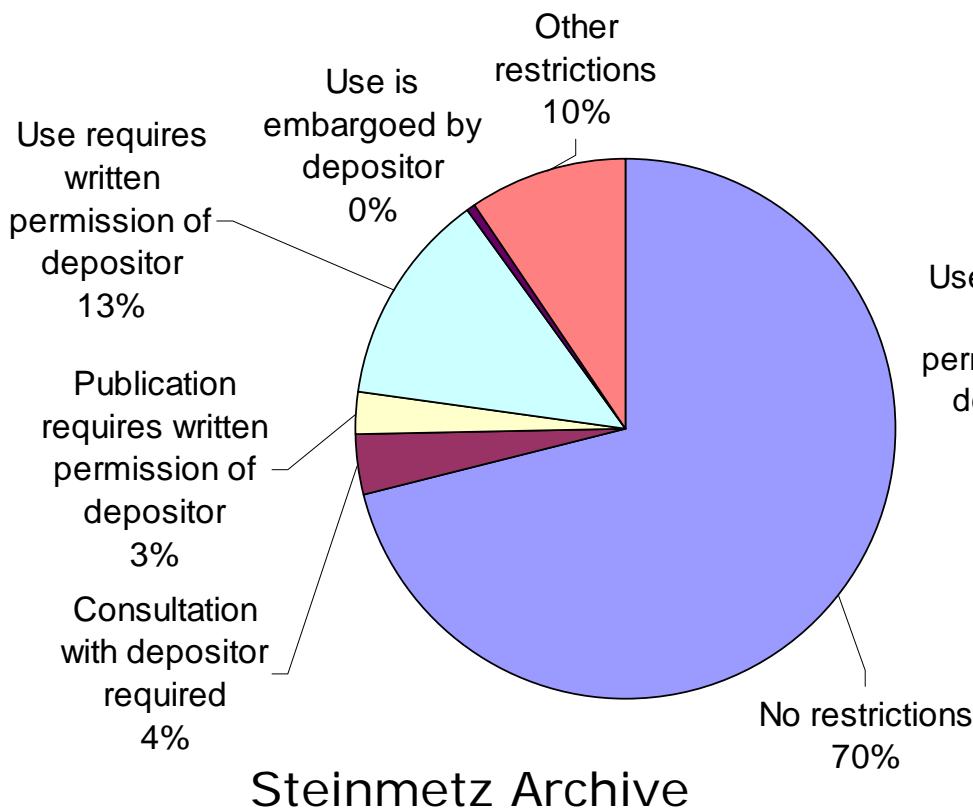
Privacy issues

- Dutch data protection law (*wet bescherming persoonsgegevens*)
 - Separate regulation for processing of data for research
 - Allowed when privacy is guaranteed
 - Code of conduct by SWR (social research council)

Restrictions of data use in two data archives

Restriction	STAR	NHDA
No restrictions	X	X
No restrictions for scholarly use		X
Consultation with depositor required	X	X
Publication requires written permission of depositor	X	X
Use requires written permission of depositor	X	
Use is embargoed by depositor	X	(X)
Other restrictions (use of data has to be reported to depositor)	X	X

Restrictions to use of data in Steinmetz Archive and NHDA



DANS and Open Access I

- DANS aims for optimal access to research data. 'Open Access' is an important means: free access and free use of scientific information.
- Open Access to research data is essential for a free scientific process. Research, especially when funded by public means, should be publicly accessible. It must be possible to reproduce and check the results of research. Moreover, it must be possible to build upon and to make comparative analyses of existing research.
- Research data complies with the principles of Open Access if:
 - it is accessible and can be (re-)used by everyone
 - it is stored in a 'trusted digital repository'

DANS and Open Access II

- Some rights are reserved:
 - Comply with existing laws and rules
 - Demands by user community
- DANS stores research data in it's Electronic Archiving SYstem (EASY). EASY complies with criteria of a 'trusted digital repository'.

Access categories

- Open Access
- Restricted Access
- Other Access (not at DANS)
 - Data is in the “dark archive”
 - Personal data protected by data protection law
 - Data accessible at other trusted repository (referral)

Access categories

- Open Access: data are freely accessible to all registered users
- Restricted Access:
 - Access is regulated by the depositor
 - Embargo for a limited time
 - Access only for a limited group (eg. researchers only, non-commercial users only, closed community or collaboratory).
- Other Access: data are not accessible through DANS when:
 - They are protected by the Dutch Data Protection Law
 - They are made available through another Trusted Digital Repository

Conditions for access

- All metadata are freely accessible to everyone
- Users have to register in order to download data. Registration implies:
 - Users agree with code of conduct for scientific research
 - Users agree with code of conduct for working with personal data (if applicable)
 - Downloading data requires agreement that we publish which data you downloaded
- Registered users will be able to post reviews and publications on datasets they have downloaded
- Download information is accessible to all registered users; in this way, communities/collaboratories around data collections may arise
- Derivative data is (properly documented) deposited at DANS
- DANS and depositor of the data are credited in publications for which the downloaded data was used (citing rules available); These publications are reported to DANS

DANS EASY

- DANS Electronic Archiving System
- “Self archiving”
 - Registered users document and upload data
 - Documentation schema depends on discipline and data type
 - Least Common Denominator: Qualified Dublin Core
- Minimum fields: Contributor (registration name), Title, Description, Date(s) of data creation/collection, License information

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Search

Humanities

- ▶ History
- ▶ History of art
- ▶ Archaeology
- ▶ Language studies
- ▶ Literature studies
- ▶ Theology
- ▶ Film, Music & Theater studies

Social sciences

- ▶ Economics & Business studies
- ▶ Behavioral science & education
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Law
- ▶ Public administration & Political science
- ▶ Sociology

DANS corporate Site

Data Archiving and Networked Services

DANS

www.dans.knaw.nl

EASY

Welcome to EASY

Easy gives access to a large number of datasets in humanities and the social sciences. You can download most datasets directly, together with the accompanying documentation. For others you need special permission.

Easy is also a system by which you, researcher or data manager, can deposit your data and accompanying documentation in the DANS archive on-line. Your data will immediately be stored in a permanent and sustainable manner. It will be made securely available to other researchers under conditions specified in consultation with you.

Search

Search for

Search



In discipline(s):

- Humanities
- Social sciences

Logout : Peter Doorn

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Humanities

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Behavioral science & education

Psychology

Law

Public administration & Political science

Sociology

DANS corporate Site

Data Archiving and Networked Services

**Deposit dataset - required elements**

Contributor(s) ?	<input type="text" value="Peter Doorn"/>	<input type="button" value="+"/>
Title ?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="+"/>
Description* ?	<input type="text"/>	
Date created* ?	<input type="text"/>	(yyyy or yyyy-yyyy)
Rights		
Access rights ?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I. everyone, no conditions for use <input type="radio"/> II. only scientific research & education, no conditions for use <input type="radio"/> III. specific conditions for use, further consultation required	
License*	View summary of license agreement (PDF, Dutch) View full license agreement (PDF, Dutch) <input type="checkbox"/> I accept the terms of the license agreement	
Date available * ?	<input type="text" value="2006-10-10"/>	(yyyy-mm-dd)
Upload dataset (max. 150 Mb per upload)		
File* ?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/> <input type="button" value="Upload"/>
<input type="button" value="Save draft"/> <input type="button" value="Submit now"/> <input type="button" value="Fill in more"/>		
<input type="button" value="Leave procedure"/>		

Onsrud & Campbell: demands for infrastructure design

- “Towards a commons of scientific and technical data”: www.spatial.maine.edu/icfs/Onsrud-Campbell%20Paper.pdf
- To be implemented in DANS EASY:
 - ✓ explicit intellectual property licensing conditions
 - ✓ generating meta-data semi-automatically
 - ✓ tracking file provenance (permanent identifier)
 - ✓ archiving (using lockss-principle)
 - ✓ peer review evaluation system

Beyond EASY: “Deep Store”

- Possible for a selection of data sets only
- Enrich and link data in “Topical programs”
 - direct collaboration with researchers
- Requirement differs according to discipline and data type, eg.:
 - survey data in social sciences: Nesstar
 - archaeological data (variety of data types)

Conclusions

- Between dream and deed...
- DANS works to make the dream come true!