Sharing Category Systems for Survey Items with Others in DDI-Lifecycle Format

EDDI12 – 4th Annual European DDI User Conference December 3-4, 2012 in Bergen, Norway

Wolfgang Zenk-Möltgen
GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
Wolfgang.Zenk-Moeltgen@gesis.org

Overview

- What we have
- What we want to do
- Possibilities in DDI-Lifecycle
- Evaluation Criteria and Results
- Recommendations

What we have

- Category Systems for Variables
- CodebookExplorer Application
- Trends and Scales
- Multiple Languages
- Hierarchical Structure
- Variable Assignments

What we want to do

- Export the Category Systems
- Publish Independently from Database
- Share with Others to be Re-Used
- Maintain Versions
- Get Cited



Category Systems for Variables

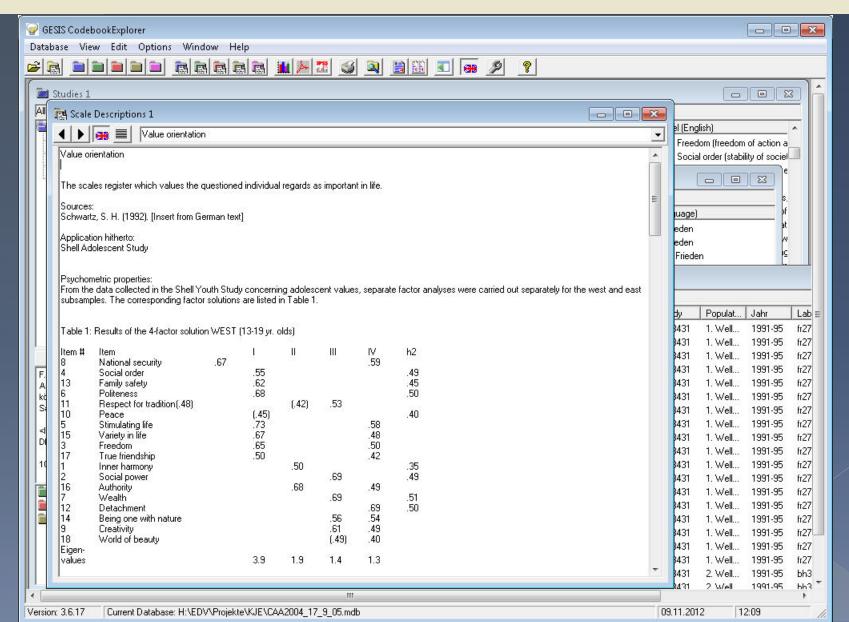
Example Database: "Childhood, Adolescence and becoming an Adult 1991-1997"

Topics: political-social experiences and orientations; youth and becoming adult as a phase in life in the framework of the course of life; courses of development and development risks; life styles, cultures and social reference groups of young people and the social-structural differentiating of the youth phase.

Source: Fischer, Arthur; Jugendwerk der Deutschen Shell, Hamburg; Silbereisen, Rainer K.; Vaskovics, Laszlo A.; Zinnecker, Jürgen (1999): Childhood, Adolencence, and Becoming an Adult 1991-1997 - Youth Longitudinal 1991-1995/96. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA3431 Data file Version 1.0.0, doi:10.4232/1.3431

gesis

Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences



Possibilities in DDI-Lifecycle

- Concepts
- Subjects
- Notes
- Controlled Vocabularies (Genericode)

Concepts

- ConceptScheme in RessourcePackage
- Concept for each Node
 - Label
 - Description
 - UserID
- ConceptGroup for Root Node
 - Nested ConceptReferences for Structure
- Variables use ConceptReference

Subjects

- TopicalCoverage in Coverage in RessourcePackage
- Subject for each Node
 - Optional with CodeListID for Controlled Vocabulary
- No structure
- No Variable Assignments

Notes

- Notes in RessourcePackage
- Header for Label
- Content for Description
- Relationship for Assignments to Variables
- Type Attribute does not fit well
- No Structure

Controlled Vocabularies

- Uses Genericode Code Lists
- DDI Alliance uses Column Set
 - Code
 - > Term
 - Definition
- Maintained by Code List Sets
- No Hierarchy

Evaluation Criteria

- Are the Semantics OK?
- Support for Multiple Language?
- Support for Structure?
- Usable in Ressource Package?
- Support for Variable Assignments?
- Is It Possible to Maintain it?



Evaluation Results

| | Concept | Subject | Note | Controlled Vocabulary |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|------|--------------------------|
| Semantics | +/- | +/- | - | + |
| Language | + | + | + | + |
| Structure | + | - | - | - |
| Ressource Package | + | + | + | - |
| Variable Assignments | + | - | + | - |
| Maintainable | + | - | - | + |

Recommendations

- Use the DDI Concept Element
- Include it in a Ressource Package
- Use Hierarchical Structure
- Include Languages and Ids
- Reference Concepts from Variables

Example DDI Code

```
<c:ConceptGroup id="ConGro 1" purpose="Conceptual"> <!-- may be: purpose="Administrative" -->
                            <!-- optional: may contain CodebookExplorer Database ID of Category -->
<a:Organiz
                            <r:UserID type="CodebookExplorer">4599</r:UserID>
    <a:0rg
                            <!-- optional: may contain versioning authority -->
</a:Organi
                            <r:VersionResponsibility>Tim Schmitz</r:VersionResponsibility>
                            <!-- optional: may contain versioning reasons -->
<!-- Concer
                            <r:VersionRationale>Correction of more errors</r:VersionRationale>
<c:Concept
                            <c:ConceptGroupName>Comparative Questions</c:ConceptGroupName>
    <!-- C
                            <r:Label>Cross-Sectional 1991/1996</r:Label>
    <c:Con
                           <!-- optional: description -->
        <!-
                            <r:Description></r:Description>
        <r
                           <!-- ConceptReference: Reference to a concept included in the concept group.
        <!-
                           A concept can be referenced internally, from the concept scheme included in the same
        <r
                            conceptual components module, or externally, from another scheme.
        < !-
                           This element is recursive to allow for the description of hierarchical relationships
        <r
                           within the concept group. -->
                            <c:ConceptReference>
                                <r:ID>Con 2</r:ID> <!-- Value orientations -->
        <!1
                                <c:ConceptReference>
        <r
                                    <r:ID>Con 1</r:ID> <!-- A world in Peace (free from war and conflicts) -->
    </c:Co
                                </c:ConceptReference>
                            </c:ConceptReference>
    <c:Con
                        </c:ConceptGroup>
        <!-
                   </c:ConceptScheme>
                   <1:VariableScheme id="VarSch 1">
                        <1:Variable id="Var 1">
                           <!-- ConceptReference: Reference to the concept that the variable is assigned to. -->
                           <1:ConceptReference>
        <r
                                <r:ID>Con 1</r:ID>
        <c
                           ConceptReference>
        <r
                        </l:Variable>
        <!
                   </l:VariableScheme>
        <r
               </g:ResourcePackage>
    </c:Co
           </ddi:DDIInstance>
```

Future Work

- Implement the Export into the next version of CodebookExplorer
- Explore Linked Open Data Standards like SKOS

Thank you!

Remarks/Questions?

Wolfgang.Zenk-Moeltgen@gesis.org