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Towards the sustainable use of
psychological research data

Newsletter PsyCuraDat

Announcement

After gaining valuable insights from our first empirical investigations about, inter alia, the main re-use purposes of psychological research data and the required meta-data for optimal re-usability, a first prototype of the standard was evolved and tested within two successive user studies.

In this newsletter, we present the most important findings from the two user studies and give a brief update on relevant publications and events of the BMBF-funded project PsyCuraDat.

In this edition

User Study 1 & 2: Testing the prototype of the documentation standard

In order to validate the prototype for the documentation standard, which was developed with the help of psychological researchers in the previous stage of the project, two user studies were conceptualized. The results of the first user study revealed that even though researchers appreciated the concept, the prototype of the standard needed further development regarding its formal structure and contextual specification. In particular, researchers asked for a more stringent rationale for the three documentation levels proposed in the standard as well as more information on the research design and the hypotheses

Based on the outcomes of user study 1 the standard was revised and a second user study was conducted. This time spokespersons of NOSI were asked to participate. In the end, seven spokespersons could be recruited for the study.
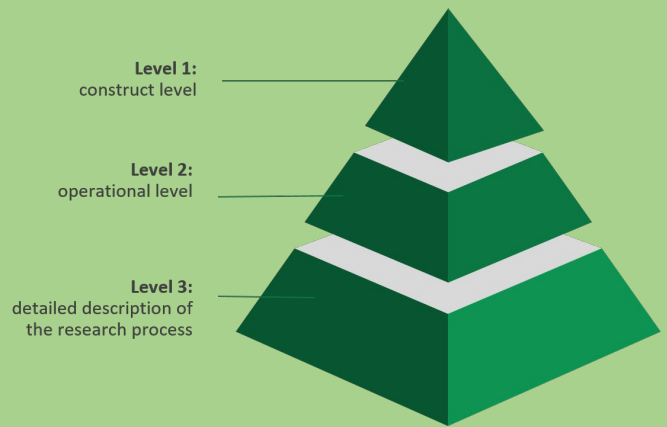
Overall we received positive feedback regarding the usefulness of the formal structure and rationale of the standard.
Aside from that, most participants see a feasible integration of the documentation standard into everyday work and consider the benefits of using it greater than the costs. Still, results pointed out that there is potential for further correction regarding the standard´s formal and contextual structure. Probably the most frequently expressed need was the desire for an overview of the research design and data collection process, for example in the form of a readme file.

If you want to read the entire publications, you can find them in PsychArchives under the following doi:

User study 1: http://dx.doi.org/10.23668/psycharchives.4318

User Study 2: http://dx.doi.org/10.23668/psycharchives.4459

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the PsyCuraDat prototype tested within the two user studies. The first and second level comprise a description of the research design on a construct and operational level. The third level contains a detailed description of the research process, inter alia, including study materials and a precise graphical overview on the research process

Publications & Events

On the 07th and 8th of December 2020, the BMBF-funded project PsyCuraDat, as a part of *ZPID*, hosted the online conference CSPD2020 - „Sharing Psychological Research Data: Best Practices and New Developments ".

At CSPD2020, we presented and discussed the preliminary results of the project in the broad context of best practices and new developments targeted at data curation and quality assurance mechanisms in psychology. If you are interested in the presentations, you can find all presentation slides here. Additionally, you can watch the entire keynote speech by Felix Schönbrodt.

Furthermore, a publication on the project's most important discoveries and developments has recently been published in the open access journal *Frontiers in Psychology (Blask, Gerhards, & Jalynskij, 2021)*.