

# Communicating with researchers

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*2nd SEEDS workshop  
Between 9th and 11th February 2016  
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

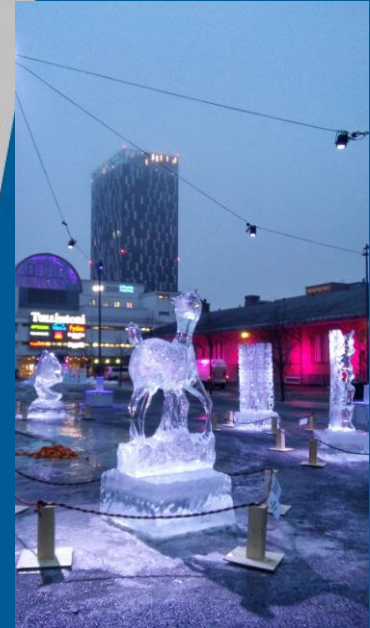
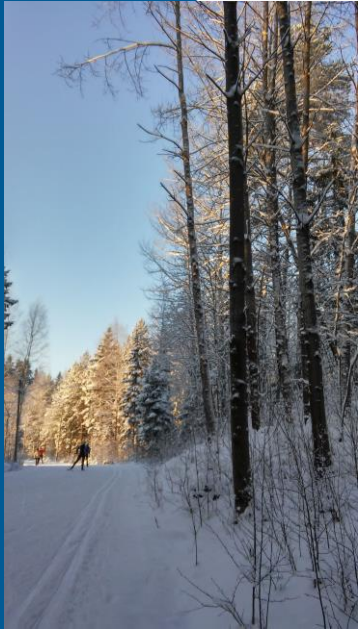
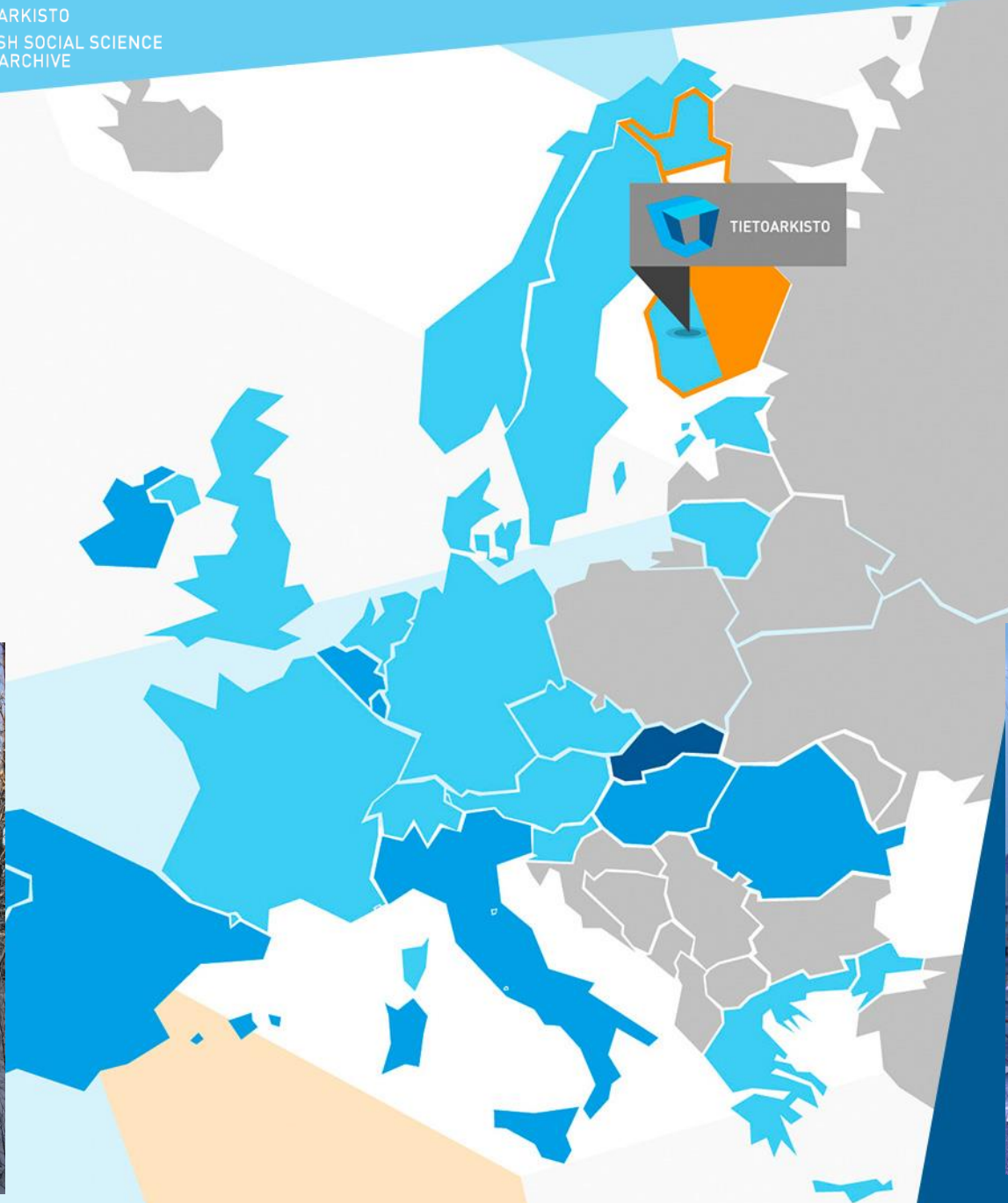
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# Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD)



# Contents

- > Differences between humanities and social sciences
- > Statistics of archived qualitative data
- > Experiences of contacting researchers to persuade them to archive qualitative data
- > Researchers concerns
- > Lessons learned
- > Statistics of re-use

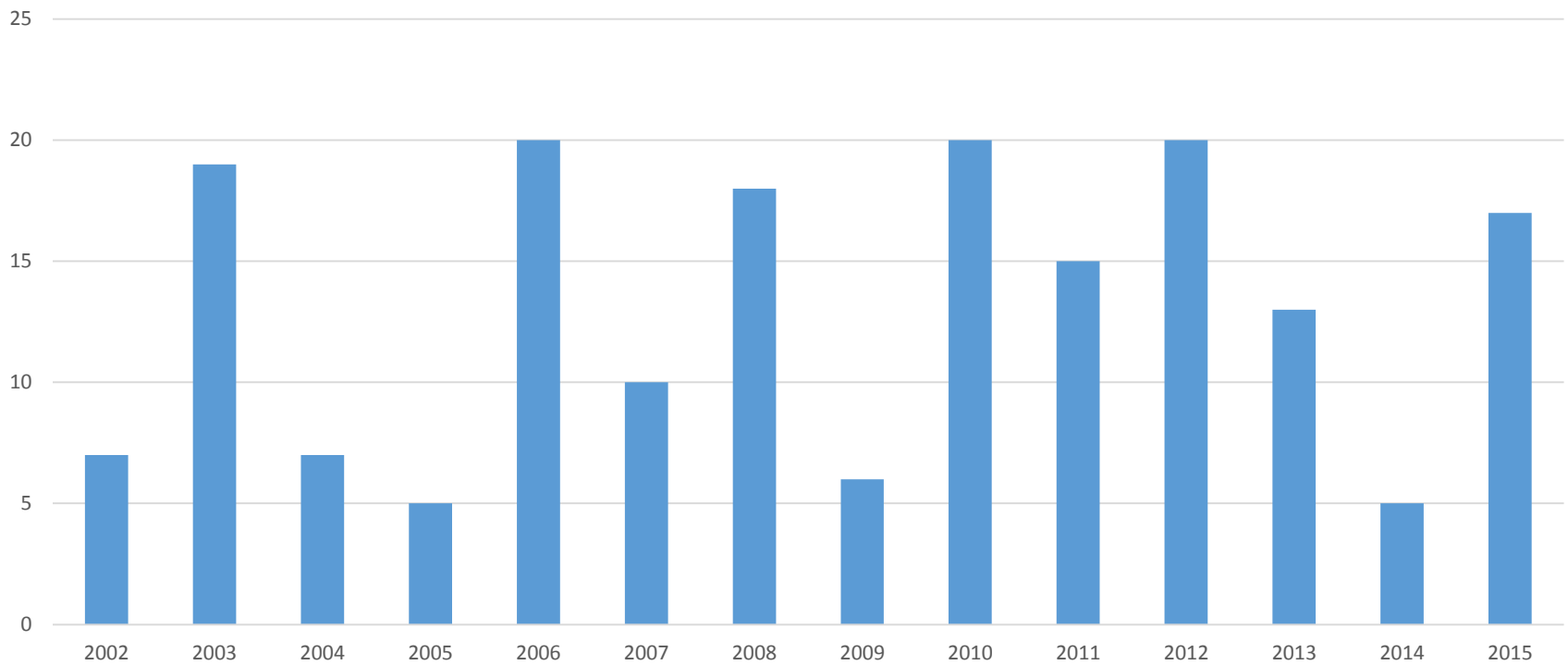


<http://www.historyofcrawford.com/Humanities.html>



# Qualitative data archived per year

Yearly archiving





## Contacting researchers

- > During 2003-2006 app. 100 contacts every year
- > Researchers' reasons not to archive
  - Unclear agreements on ownership
  - IT-problems
  - Inadvertent misuse of data
  - Ethics
  - Data protection



# Appealing to morality of scientific openness

- > Ropert K. Merton: Mertonian norms (1942)
  - Communalism
  - Universalism
  - Disinterestedness
  - Organized Scepticism
- > Did not work





## Research participants data archive contacted

- > Contacting research participants to get consent to the archiving of four datasets
  1. Written lifestories of university students
  2. Equality and gender issues in working life (in-depth interviews)
  3. Environment disputes (in-depth interviews)
  4. Women in countryside (in-depth interviews)
- > 169 were contacted, only four did not accept the archiving



## Research participants' perceptions

- > Main reason to give consent to archiving: wish to advance science (=the original reason to participate in research)
- > Open access to research data for other researchers taken as matter-of-course
  - Interviewees do not define the interview relationship as private or secret
  - Relationship is seen to fall within the field of institutional interaction



## Research interview as institutional interaction

- > Interviews can be open and candid including personally sensitive issues
- > Interviews can be unpredictable and emotional BUT:
  - Interaction is predefined by research frames
  - Not casual conversation between any individuals in a private situation
  - Interaction is defined for both partners as belonging to the domain of research



# Confidentiality

- > Participants draw the boundaries of their privacy in two stages
  - Decision to participate or not
  - During research interaction
- > Doing qualitative research is professional, institutional endeavour in all its phases
- > Confidentiality
  - Means agreements and consent on the future use and preservation of the data
  - Should be negotiated with research participants
  - Basics: confidentiality as restricted access combined with the users undertaking not to disseminate any identifying information for any other than research purposes (Personal information cannot be delivered or presented as such to media or to administrative officials for decisions concerning individual interviewees)

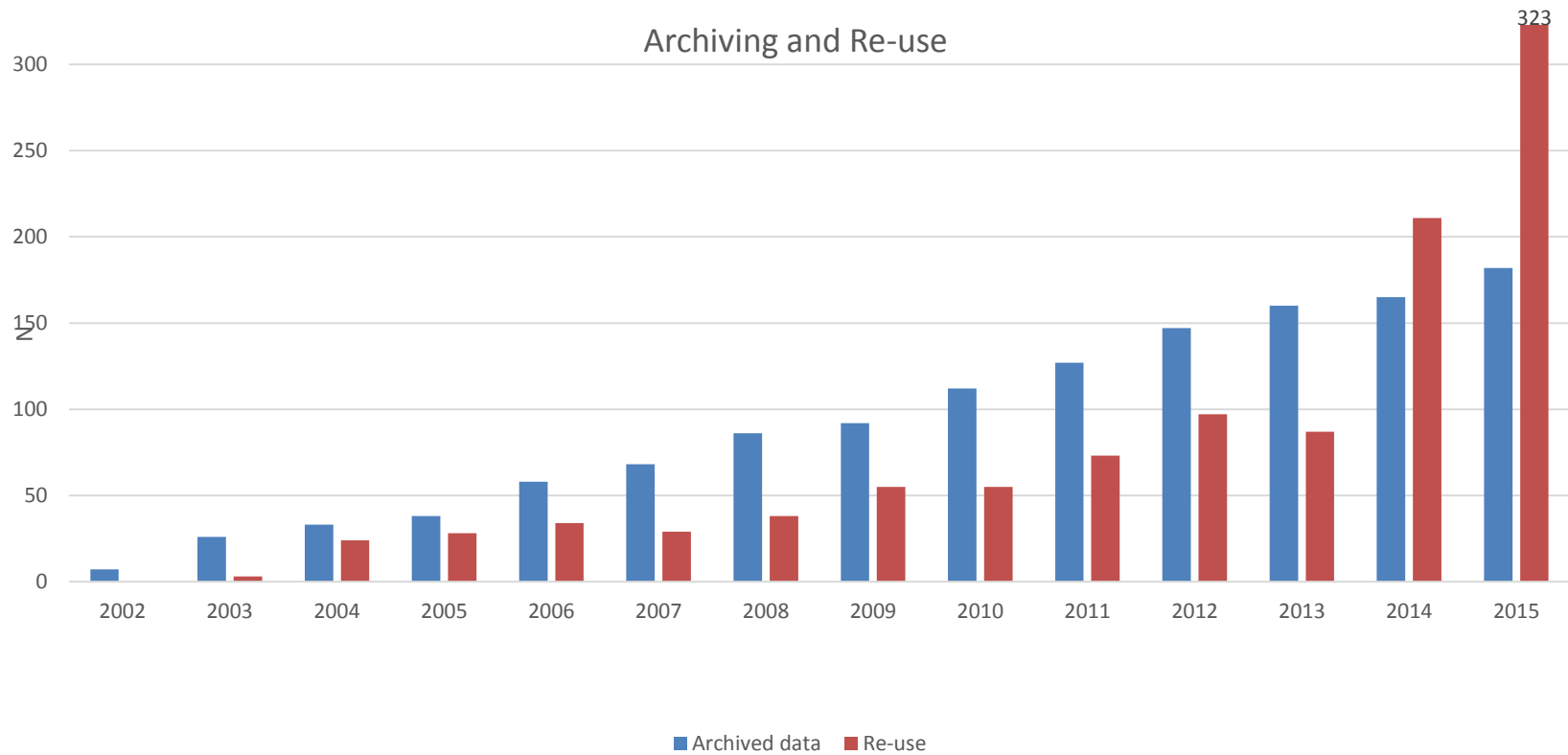


# When persuading researchers, remind them about following issues

- > It is ethical to respect research participants' self-determination (consent formulations)
- > Re-use of archived data does not mean replication of original research
- > Data archive is a trusted partner
  - (Learn yourself to be an expert on data protection!)
- > Research funders and some journals require that the data are made available to other researchers
- > By archiving data you get more citations

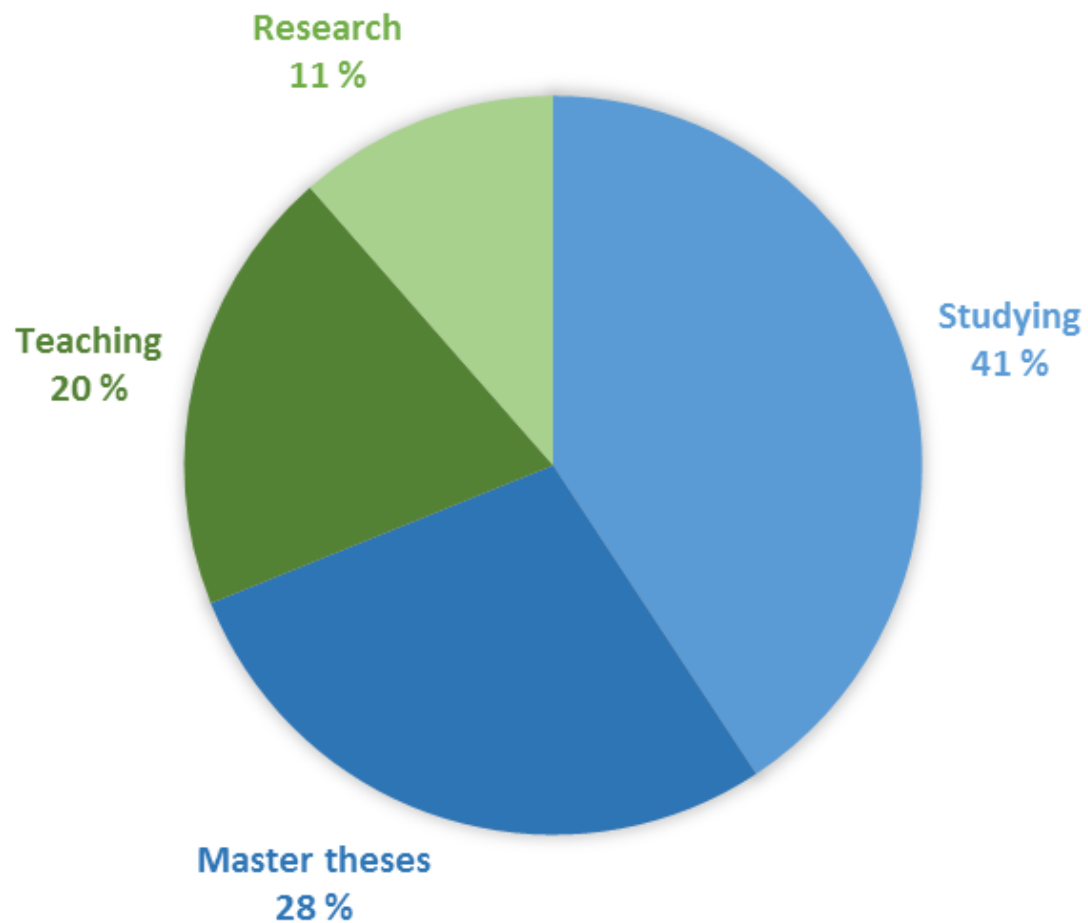


# The amount of archived qualitative data and re-use per year





## REUSE PURPOSES DURING AILA DATA PORTAL 12.5.2014-2.2.2016





# Data archivists' good features when communicating with the researcher

- > An ability to listen;
- > An ability to be non-judgmental; concerns
  - the researcher's attitudes
  - his/her fears towards archiving
  - opinions
- > A good memory during conversation;
  - Ability to think on researcher's feet
  - An ability to confirm and feed the researcher





## Material created to help data acquisition

- > Predefined e-mail letters for trying to get a specified dataset deposited to the data archive
- > Predefined e-mail letters to congratulate researchers when they have got research funding
- > Information sheet on the Data Archive for research participants



# Links

- > Informing research participants
- > <http://www.fsd.uta.fi/aineistonhallinta/en/informing-research-participants.html>
- > Information sheet on the Data Archive for research participants
- > [http://www.fsd.uta.fi/shared/resources/2014\\_esite\\_tutkittaville\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.fsd.uta.fi/shared/resources/2014_esite_tutkittaville_ENG.pdf)
- > A. Kuula: Methodological and ethical dilemmas of archiving qualitative data. IASSIST Quarterly. 2011. 25:1-2. 12-17.
- > [http://www.iassistdata.org/sites/default/files/iq/iqvol34\\_35\\_kuula.pdf](http://www.iassistdata.org/sites/default/files/iq/iqvol34_35_kuula.pdf)

**Thank you!**



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