

Development of the Long Term Vision

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ONS

Vision, or Visions?

Is diversity a strength, as it is in nature?

Or is convergence a better use of rare resources?

Should decentralisation of data access promote diversity, or promote convergence?

Vision, or Visions?

Diversity in some areas, convergence in others.

Diversity in modalities, in software, in the user support, in metadata. This diversity is no threat. Competition in these areas benefits research.

Convergence in researcher accreditation, in impact assessment, in SDC standards. A race to the bottom in these areas is not good for research.

What are we trying to achieve?

"If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said a faster horse."

- Henry Ford

We must avoid building a framework for tomorrow according to the research model of yesterday.

We must ensure our investments are future proof.
How will tomorrow's researchers want to work?

Future, in the context of 'Free Our Data'

- Hand-held processing power
- Direct experience and personal exploration vs. conclusions of institutions
(eg. wattsupwiththat.com vs IPCC)
- The data 'deluge'
- Release of COINS in UK
- Google Flu, ASBOrometer, ONS Personal Inflation Calculator...

Performance > Vinyl/CD > iTunes > Pirate
Bay > Spotify

The evolution of access to music may be a model for the future of access to data.

We must not make the same mistakes as the music industry, and lose control over our property for a decade.

Music found the solution and it is remote access (and laboratories / concerts remain for the best experience)

Research in the context of other statistical activity

Is research access a core activity?

- What is a NSI´s core activity?
- Informing public debate and evidence based policy making.

Neither official statistics nor research can do this alone. They are partner activities.

Attributes of these partner activities

Quality criteria in Reg 223/2009 :

Relevance

Accuracy

Timeliness

Punctuality

Accessibility and clarity

Comparability

Coherence

In the context of an information society, which of these should the long term vision prioritise?

Long term vision

Distribute access to as many points as possible

Minimise the number of data duplicates

Integrate research into the statistical value chain

Let those who are best at a task perform that task

Mutualise decision making within shared standards

Prepare for the way information will be used in the future

Learn from non statistical domains

Welcome cost benefit analysis (but prepare well for it)