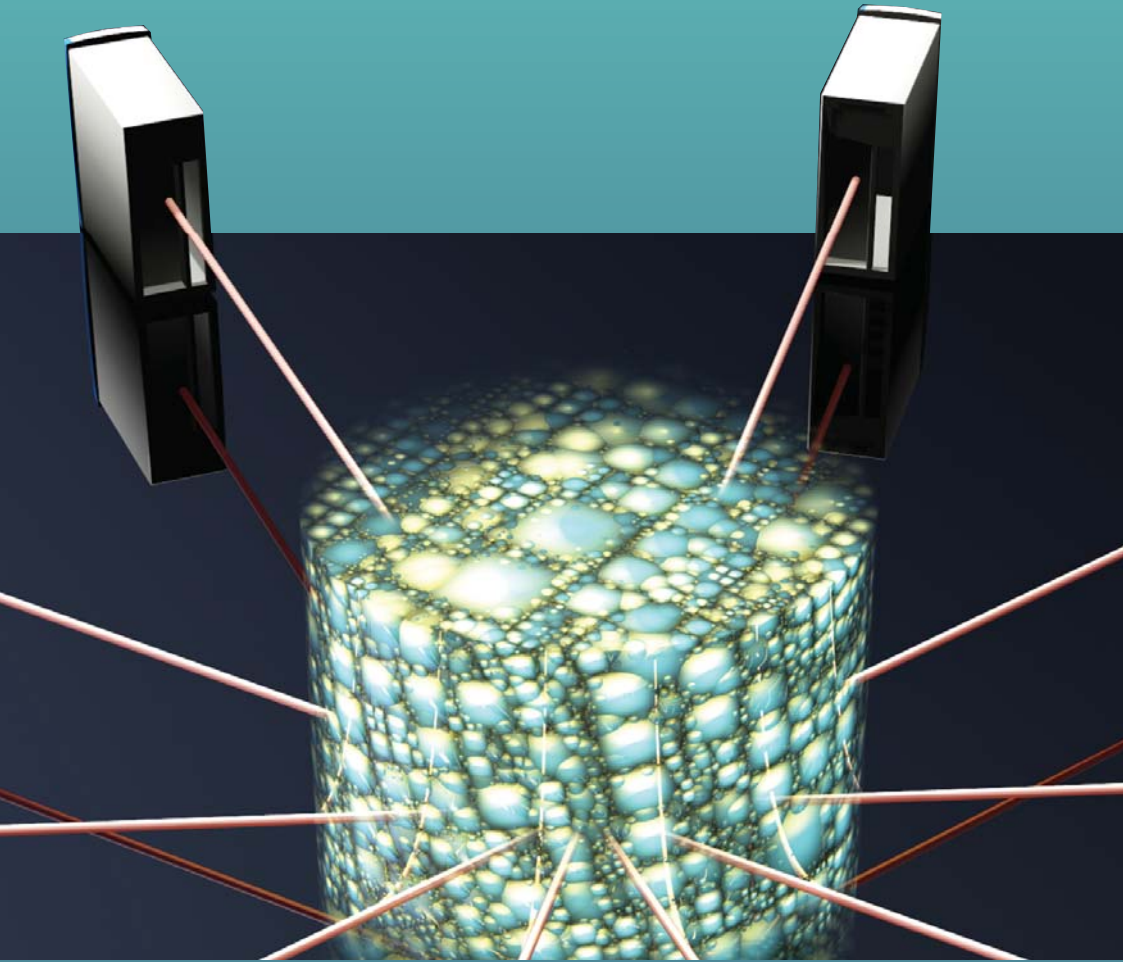


DExT



# DExT

data exchange tools

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Data Exchange Tools (DExT) was funded under the JISC Capital Programme: Repositories and Preservation. The UK Data Archive (UKDA) based at the University of Essex led the project with major input from the Open Data Foundation (ODaF).

Data conversion and proprietary data entry and analysis are particularly important and problematic aspects of data management and curation. The DExT project provides support staff and researchers working with primary research data with a suite of tools that will improve data curation and preservation and increase data exchangeability.

The project was a proof of concept which developed, refined and tested models and data conversion tools for data exchange. Test data selected were from across the social sciences but these formats are typically found across all domains of primary research. The demonstrator project focused on SPSS, Stata and SAS for survey data and MS Word, RTE and Atlas-ti for qualitative data.

## AN OPEN EXCHANGE FORMAT FOR DATA

A uniform format for richly encoding data is beneficial as it:

- ensures consistency of presentation and description of data
- enables flexible long-term preservation and re-use of metadata, data and annotation
- facilitates data interchange and sharing among dispersed collections and repositories
- facilitates the conversion of data to and from common statistical and qualitative data analysis packages
- supports the development of common web-based publishing tools
- enables more precise searching and browsing of archived data beyond the collection-level descriptive record

## VALUE ADDED TO DATA DURING QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

Relationships between study objects:

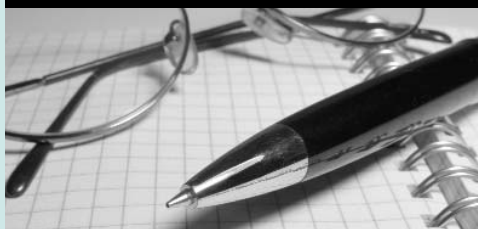
- audio recording
- transcript
- observation

Context and enrichment of the data and study:

- memos
- notes
- annotations
- outputs
- global context

Analytic products:

- codes
- classifications
- relationships
- linkages





## WHICH XML SCHEMA?

For qualitative data (raw and coded) there is currently no one metadata schema in use that suits the needs of an archive. The DEXt project built on existing standards and constructed a new dedicated schema called QuDEX. This enables transformation from CAQDAS packages to an open format and can represent annotated textual and multimedia data.

QuDEX Version 3 is available for testing at: [www.data-archive.ac.uk/dext/schema](http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/dext/schema)

The UKDA uses the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) to describe and represent survey and other structured data.

[www.icpsr.umich.edu/DDI/](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/DDI/)

This element of the project created a data conversion tool which allows users to 'import' data files created in any version of SPSS to a number of formats, including DDI 2.0 and DDI 3.0 and then to 'export' these files to other formats which can be read by other major data analysis formats — Stata, SAS. These tools have been tested thoroughly to ensure that no data or metadata loss occurs during these transformations thus making them suitable for preservation purposes.

The Open Source DEXt tool is designed so that it can be extended to allow conversion from other data formats.



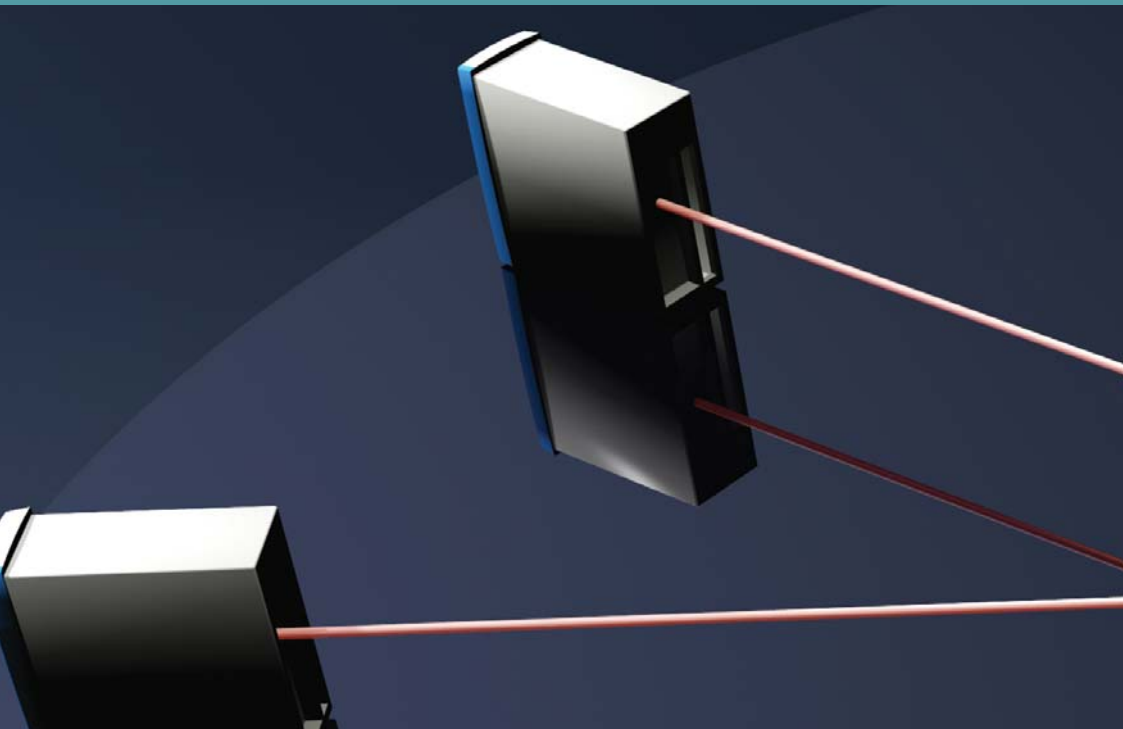
**Physical Instance**

ID	D_00e7e47-d53-4948-a89-4a854a079a_Prvive_ASCII_FIXED_NATIVE
Data File	file:C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\hatheway\work\Process2\data\test_06_1\test_06_1.fixed.dat
# of cases	1901

**Record Layout**

ID	Name	Label	Representation	Format	Start	Width/Len
V1	SERIAL	Serial number	Integer	F13.0	1	13
V2	REGION	Standard Region	Integer	F2.0	14	2
V3	AREA	Area	Integer	F3.0	16	3
V4	ADDRESS	Address	Integer	F2.0	19	3
V5	CYCLE	Year and Month	Integer	F5.0	21	6
V6	RESP	Informant Number	Integer	F2.0	26	2
V7	NADULTS	Total Adults	Integer	F2.0	28	2
V8	NET04	Children 0-4	Integer	F2.0	30	2
V9	NET10	Children 5-10	Integer	F2.0	32	2
V10	NET15	Children 11-15	Integer	F2.0	34	2
V11	INPERSONS	Total people in h hold	Integer	F2.0	36	2
V12	HHTYPE	Household Type	Code Scheme [S]	F1.0	38	1
V13	HHTYPA	Household Type A	Code Scheme [T]	F1.0	39	1
V14	HHTYPB	Household Type B	Code Scheme [T]	F1.0	40	1
V15	TENURE	Tenure	Code Scheme [T]	F1.0	41	1
V16	RESPSEX	Sex of Respondent	Code Scheme [T]	F1.0	42	1

DEXt tools and other useful tools are freely downloadable from the Open Data Foundation web site: [forge.opendatafoundation.org/gf/project/ukda\\_dext/frs/](http://forge.opendatafoundation.org/gf/project/ukda_dext/frs/)



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