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DDI 2.5 to EQB metadata transformation

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The Slovenian Social Science Data Archives (ADP) have developed an XSLT (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformations) stylesheet to align the data, variable, and question descriptions within a selection of current ADP DDI 2.5 codebook instances with the established CESSDA European Question Bank (EQB) DDI 2.5 harvesting profile. This effort was undertaken as part of the Social Sciences & Humanities Open Cloud (SSHOC) project.

This paper offers a concise overview of the transformation process, including insights into our local development environment setup, the systematic approach taken to create the XSLT transformation file, the resultant EQB DDI 2.5 XML files and potential avenues for future enhancements. Emphasis is on extracting information from existing variable description, and transforming and adding the missing default ingredients in order to pass the EQB profile validation. The functional XSLT can serve as a model for others aiming to adapt their local DDI 2.5 metadata to the common EQB profile, thus opening the metadata to further transformations including DDI3 family. The paper also discusses the challenges and potential pitfalls that were encountered during the preparation of the XSLT stylesheet.

ADP is presently engaged in the task of converting its existing metadata to DDI 2.5. Once this transition is complete, we will be equipped to convert the metadata into the EQB DDI 2.5 profile, thus enabling its accessibility for harvesting through the OAI-PMH endpoint.

Primary authors: ZIBERT, Gregor (UL-FDV-ADP); STEBE, Janez (UL-FDV-ADP)

Presenters: ZIBERT, Gregor (UL-FDV-ADP); STEBE, Janez (UL-FDV-ADP)

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