CESSDA Widening Meeting:

Strengthening and Widening of the European Infrastructure of Social Science Data Archives

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Lithuanian Data Archive for SSH

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LiDA: how we started

- Projects
  - 2006-2008 project funded by EU Structural Funds, implemented by Kaunas University of Technology (librarians and political scientists) in collaboration with Vilnius University and Institute for Social Research (quantitative sociologists)
  - 2008 special small grant from the Ministry of Science and Education (maintenance)

LiDA: how we started

- Projects
  - 2009-2011 another project funded by EU Structural Funds, implemented by Kaunas University of Technology in collaboration with Vilnius University, Institute of History (historians) and Vytautas Magnus University (qualitative sociologist)
    - The infrastructure that is currently available was fully developed and installed

LiDA: current status (www.lidata.eu)

LiDA: current status

- LiDA provides virtual digital infrastructure for acquisition, preservation and dissemination of digital SSH data in Lithuania

  – SSH researchers can search, browse, make online analyzes and download data sets of more than 300 surveys and holds more than 60 data sets of historical statistics

  – LiDA has prototype modules for archiving data of the Lithuanian political system and qualitative studies

LiDA: current status

- LiDA also serves as a hub to increase methodological competence of researchers by providing methodological assistance and training:
    - Distance learning solutions
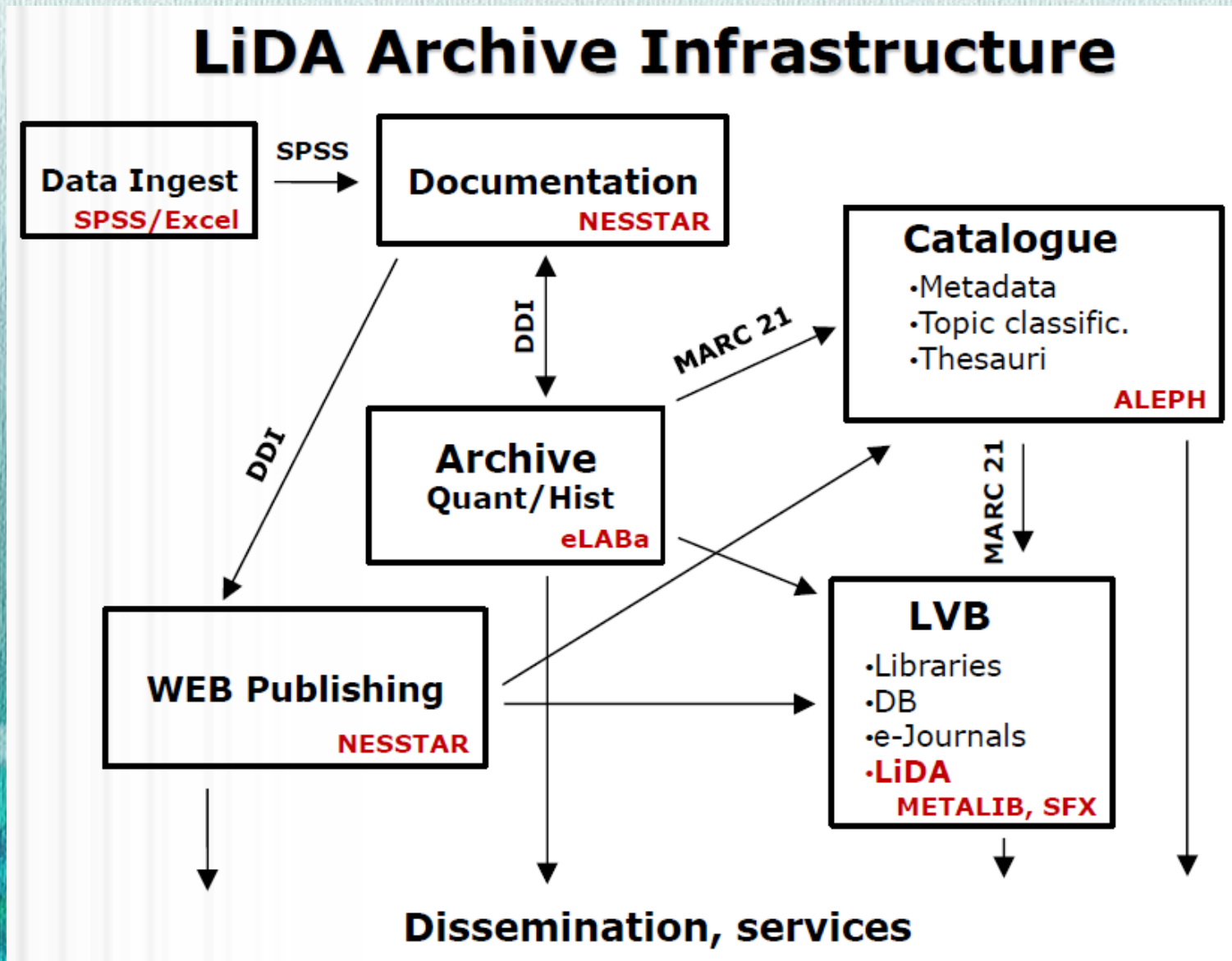   - Data confrontation seminars and methodological training

LiDA: IT infrastructure

- LiDA has three level IT infrastructure:
  - Archiving (repository of data objects) → FEDORA:
    - XML (DDI)
    - NESSTAR Server
    - SPSS
    - EXCEL
    - CSV
    - etc.

LiDA: IT infrastructure

- LiDA has three level IT infrastructure:

  - Services:

    - Data documentation → NESSTAR Publisher

    - Thesauri → HASSET/ELSST

    - Indexing and Searching

    - Visualization → WEB, NESSTAR WebView

    - Analysis → NESSTAR WebView

  - Web portal

LiDA: IT infrastructure

LiDA: current status

- No further public funding
  - Operational cost covered by the Kaunas UT
  - Center for Data Analysis and Archiving (DAtA center) founded at the Kaunas UT
    - Mostly methodological training

LiDA: main challenges

- Rapid technological changes (progress)
  - IT infrastructures
  - Data and metadata standards

- Funding and support
  - Academic community still not fully aware of the benefits related to having specialized data archives (and open data, in general)
  - National funding agencies still hesitant about importance of data archives
    - What are the advantages to have them?
    - Which are most relevant?

- International cooperation/integration

Thank you !