NZSSDS
Social Science Data Service

# New Zealand Social Science Data Service

# (www.nzssds.org.nz)

COMPASS
RESEARCH CENTRE

FACULTY OF ARTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

Seminar to update on operations and future plans

Friday, 3rd September 2010

# Outline

NZSSDS
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- Background
- Vision
- Origins
- Date service functions
- Live demonstration
- Issues
- Where to from here?

# COMPASS structure

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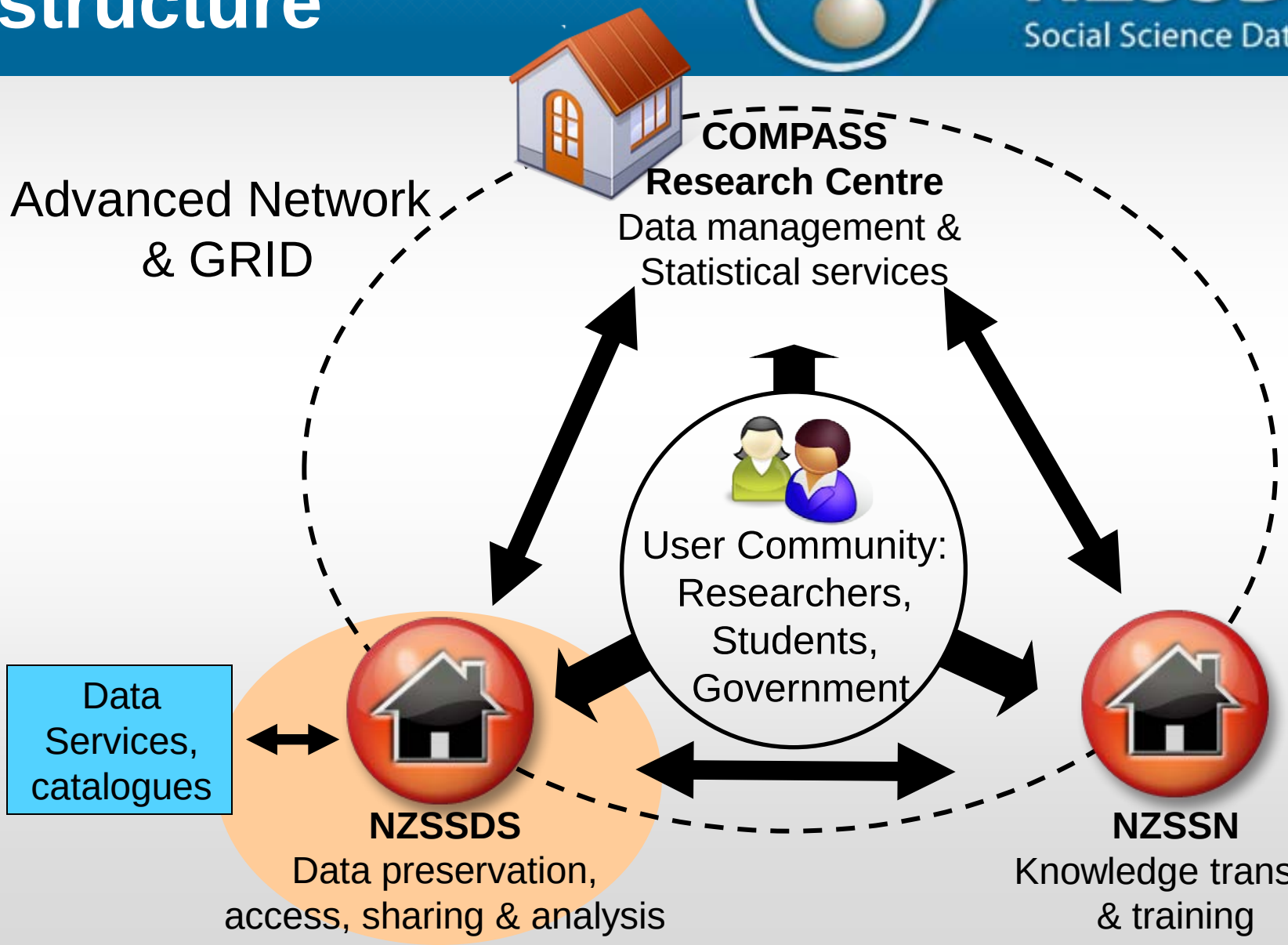

# Why preserve or share data?

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- Analyse data in ways not originally envisioned
- Cheaper to reuse existing data than collect new
- Provides resources for education and training
- Allows testing of new or alternative methods
- Promotes the research that created the data
- Enables scrutiny of research outcomes
- Preserves historically important data

# Origins of NZSSDS

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- An ambitiously titled project

  *Developing a hub for e-Social Science in New Zealand: Linking the grid with emergent social data technologies and networks*

- Start date 1st July 2007; project term 1 year
- Funded by the Tertiary Education Commission

# Who was involved

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- Set up a broadly based stakeholder group including
  - Statistics New Zealand (Stats NZ)
  - Broadband-enabled Science and Technology Grid (BeSTGRID)
  - Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences (BRCSS)
  - Data Saving and Sharing Committee, SPEaR (Ministry of Social Development)
  - Massey University
  - University of Canterbury

# Development

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- Based on the Australian Social Science Data Archive (ASSDA, assda.anu.edu.au)
- ASSDA staff visited UoA to assist in initial setup and dissemination
- ASSDA provided initial data sets – they had been holding NZ data sets in the meantime
- Reciprocal visit to ASSDA covered more of the technical details

# Data service functions

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- Preserving and making available survey data sets & metadata
- Making available ‘Enhanced Publications’
- Making available teaching data subsets and associated workbooks

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# Preserving and making available survey data sets & metadata

# Preserving and making available data and metadata

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- Almost 50 data sets archived including
  - New Zealand Election Study data (1987–2005, soon to add 2008) – Professor Jack Vowles
  - New Zealand pre-election surveys & other regional voting surveys (1972–1981)
  - International Social Survey Programme data, New Zealand (1991–2007) – Professor Philip Gendall
  - World Internet Project for New Zealand (2007) – Professor Charles Crothers
  - Health data sets (adverse events, oral health care, primary care, sexual health) – Professor Peter Davis

# Usage history

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- 50 registered users; 12 specific data requests
  - Extensive use of election study data within The University of Auckland as well as by several university students internationally
  - Use of ISSP, oral health survey and primary care survey data by researchers in Holland
- 2 postgraduate courses (in sociology & stats) involving metadata and data sets in teaching
- Further studies to follow up for archiving

# Future data set developments

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- Increase the number and range of data sets held on the archive
  - Initiatives in progress
    - > Professor John Hattie, Faculty of Education – student assessment data
    - > Commonwealth Foundation – international health survey data
    - > World values study (Paul Perry – Massey University)
- Obtain high quality high value qualitative data set(s)
    - > Both for preservation and for teaching purposes
- COMPASS hosting visiting speaker Louise Corti of UK data archive

# Data set enhancement work plan Sep 2010 – Aug 2011

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- New data sets: NZES 2008, ISSP 2008 and 2009, CoMedCa, further teaching data sets including the MoJ crime survey
- Further development of website
  - Links to Stats NZ around data access agreements with universities
  - Links to and local storage of COMPASS reports on Stats NZ website
  - Complete in-line html presentation of Census Data Guide
  - Add value to data presented on Nesstar

# Enhanced publications

# Enhanced publications

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- What are they
  - An enhanced publication is a publication that is enriched with three categories of information:
    - > research data (evidence of the research)
    - > extra materials (to illustrate or clarify)
    - > post-publication data (commentaries, ranking)
- Why are they useful
  - promote the availability of reusable scientific data
  - allow verification of the outcomes of the research.
  - they are the outcomes of public good research and should therefore, where appropriate, be available to the public
  - reduce the need to ‘re-invent the wheel’ and thus make better use of scarce resources

# Enhanced publication

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- Derived from the work of summer students Dec 2009 Feb 2010 – project titled ‘Adding Value to the NZSSDS’
- Produced a user guide for establishing a template for a research repository with real-world examples

# Proposed user guide details

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## Divided into five sections

- Article Details
  - > Background, Objective, Methods, Conclusion
- Purpose of Metadata
- Using the Data
  - > Variables on the files
- Analyses
- Data Dictionary
  - > Original Variables
  - > Derived Variables

# Teaching Resources

# Teaching resources

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- Why are these needed?
  - Shortage of quantitative skills among social scientists
  - Resources are expensive / time consuming to produce
  - Part of COMPASS contribution to social science community
- What are they?
  - Teaching workbooks
  - Teaching datasets

# Teaching resources

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- Teaching workbooks
  - Two produce so far
    - > ISSP – gender roles module
    - > NZES - analysis of election data
  - In the pipeline
    - > MOJ Crime and Victimisation Survey
- Teaching datasets
  - Two being produced
    - > ISSP
    - > NZES

# Demonstration

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- Overview of the NESSTAR software
- Demonstration of the three functions of the data service

# Nesstar software (1)

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- Networked Social Science Tools and Resources
- Brings the advantages of the web to data storage
- Data archives in UK and Norway run the company
- Nesstar used by 100+ institutions, all over the world, including NZSSDS, Australia's ASSDA
- CESSDA – 20+ member archives running Nesstar
  - Global keyword search online at cessda.org across all of these

# Nesstar software (2)

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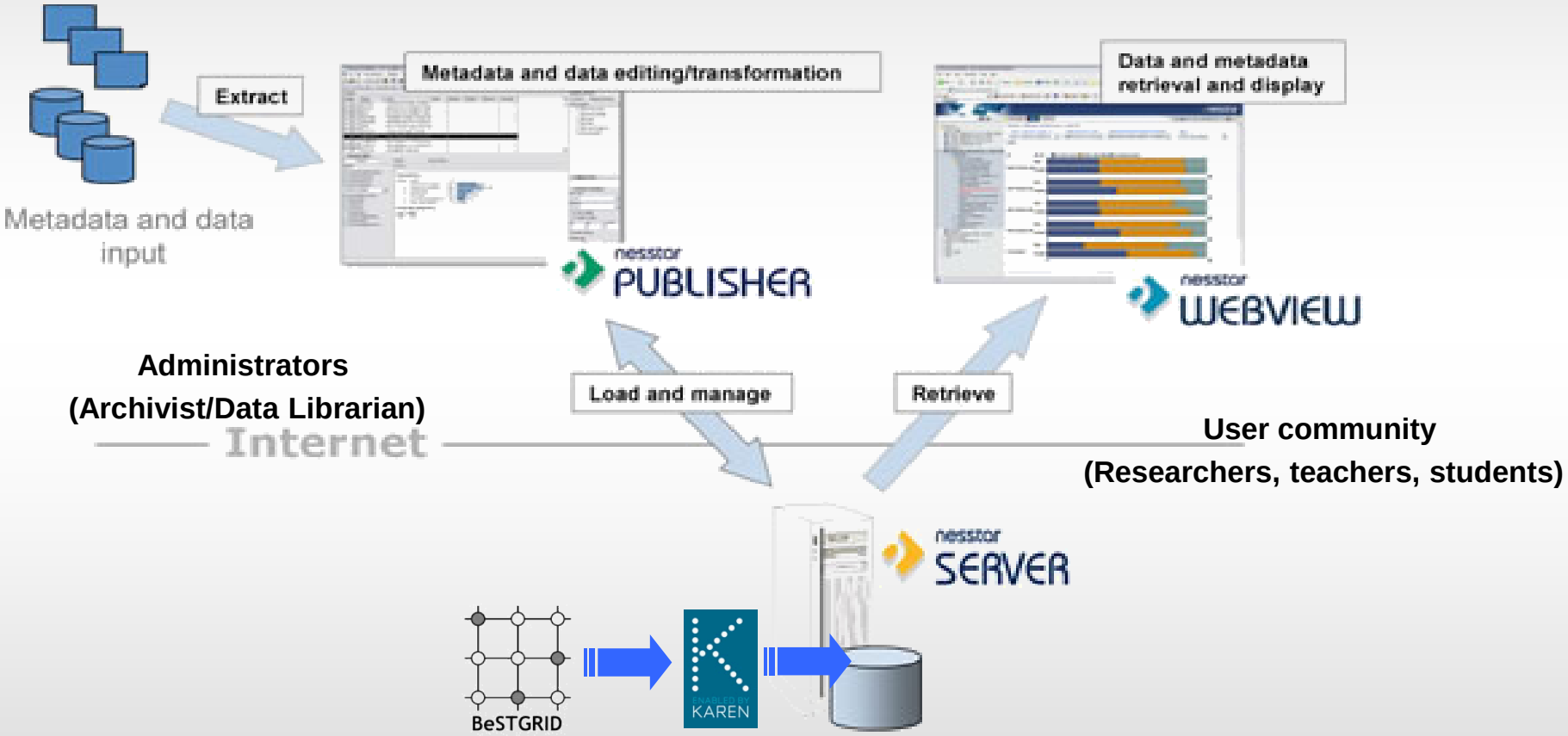

# Nesstar software (3)

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- Live demonstration of the three data service functions

# What issues do we face?

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- Financial sustainability

- Uptake of the service
  - Depositing of data
  - Use of the data archive

# Where to from here?

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- Continue the development of the three functions of the data service
  - Increase the number of datasets
  - Add additional enhanced publications
    - > Using summer students
  - Develop additional teaching resources

- Work to advance the data preserving and sharing agenda in New Zealand
  - Data archiving on the policy agenda – see MoRST lead initiative ‘Data matters’ as part of the eResearch agenda

# Contact details

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- For further information visit
  - www.nzssds.org.nz
- Or contact
  - admin@nzssds.org.nz