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# APPROPRIATE COVERAGE OF SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES - A EUROPEAN OVERVIEW

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## Introduction

Achieving full coverage of the scholarly publications in the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in bibliographic data sources is notoriously difficult (Hicks, 1999; Archambault et al., 2006; Nederhof, 2006). Although commercial databases such as the Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus have made considerable advances in increasing the coverage of the archival journals and articles in these fields, they still give limited representation of the SSH (Hicks and Wang, 2009) especially of output by researchers in non-English-speaking countries (Larivière and Macaluso, 2011). In Flanders, Norway and Spain, however, attempts have been made to cover the scholarly output in the SSH and its publication channels more systematically and comprehensively (Sivertsen, 2010; Engels et al., 2012; Gimenez-Toledo et al., 2013).

In this poster, we will present an overview of how European countries

manage to cover the publications in the social sciences and humanities in bibliographic databases for statistics, assessment and/or funding of research. It is our hypothesis that there are recent achievements with regard to better coverage in several countries. Still, they are not yet visible on the European level. Hence there is a need for an overview and maybe also a potential for collaboration between the initiatives.

## Methods

We have performed a survey on email since February 2013 by contacting 28 colleagues in 28 countries and asking them to answer the questions cited below. If no response, we will contact other colleagues in the same country. So far, we have responses from 19 countries. We expect this number to increase before we finalize the poster, which we will design with the following elements:

- A map of Europe visualizing the main results from each country

- Tables summarizing in more detail the results from the survey
- A short text discussing the results and their implications.

### **The questionnaire**

The questions covered by our survey are cited below:

1. In your country, are comprehensive bibliographic data (exceeding the journal coverage in ISI Web of Knowledge or Scopus) for scholarly publishing in the social sciences and humanities collected systematically (not only as individual publication lists) and continuously (i.e. not only as part of a survey) for the purpose of research information, statistics, assessment or funding?

If no, you may reply without continuing to the other questions. If yes,

2. Are these publication types covered?
  - a. Articles in peer-reviewed international journals
  - b. Articles in peer-reviewed national journals
  - c. Articles in edited scholarly books and book series
  - d. Scholarly monographs
  - e. Publications for students and non-academic audiences
3. For which purpose?
  - a. Research information
  - b. Statistics and studies
  - c. Research assessment
  - d. Project funding
  - e. Institutional funding
  - f. Full text repositories
  - g. Other:
4. At which level are the data collected (please provide URL to relevant organization(s))?
  - a. At the national level:

- b. At the institutional level:
  - c. Other:
5. Are the researchers themselves providing and/or correcting their data?
6. Are the data complete from the point of view of the individual researcher?
7. Are the data available in a database that can be searched and analysed?
  - a. If yes, supply URL:
8. If there are examples of published studies based on these data, please give one or more references:
9. Please name relevant organizations or persons that you would like us to know of:
10. Please add more information if you would like to do so (e.g. more details about the types of data).

### **Results and discussion**

The preliminary result is that there are variations within Europe from countries that have achieved complete representations of the scholarly output in the SSH to countries with no representation at all. We observe that several countries in Eastern Europe have implemented database or current research information systems (CRIS) that cover SSH output to a large extent. In the Nordic countries too, several initiatives have successfully implemented. In large countries such as Germany, a more mixed pattern emerges, often with databases that are focused on one or more disciplines rather than the whole of the SSH. We conclude that in several countries clear progress has been made in achieving comprehensive coverage of SSH output. The full results of our survey will be presented and discussed in the poster.

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# Appropriate coverage of scholarly publishing in the social sciences and humanities - a European overview

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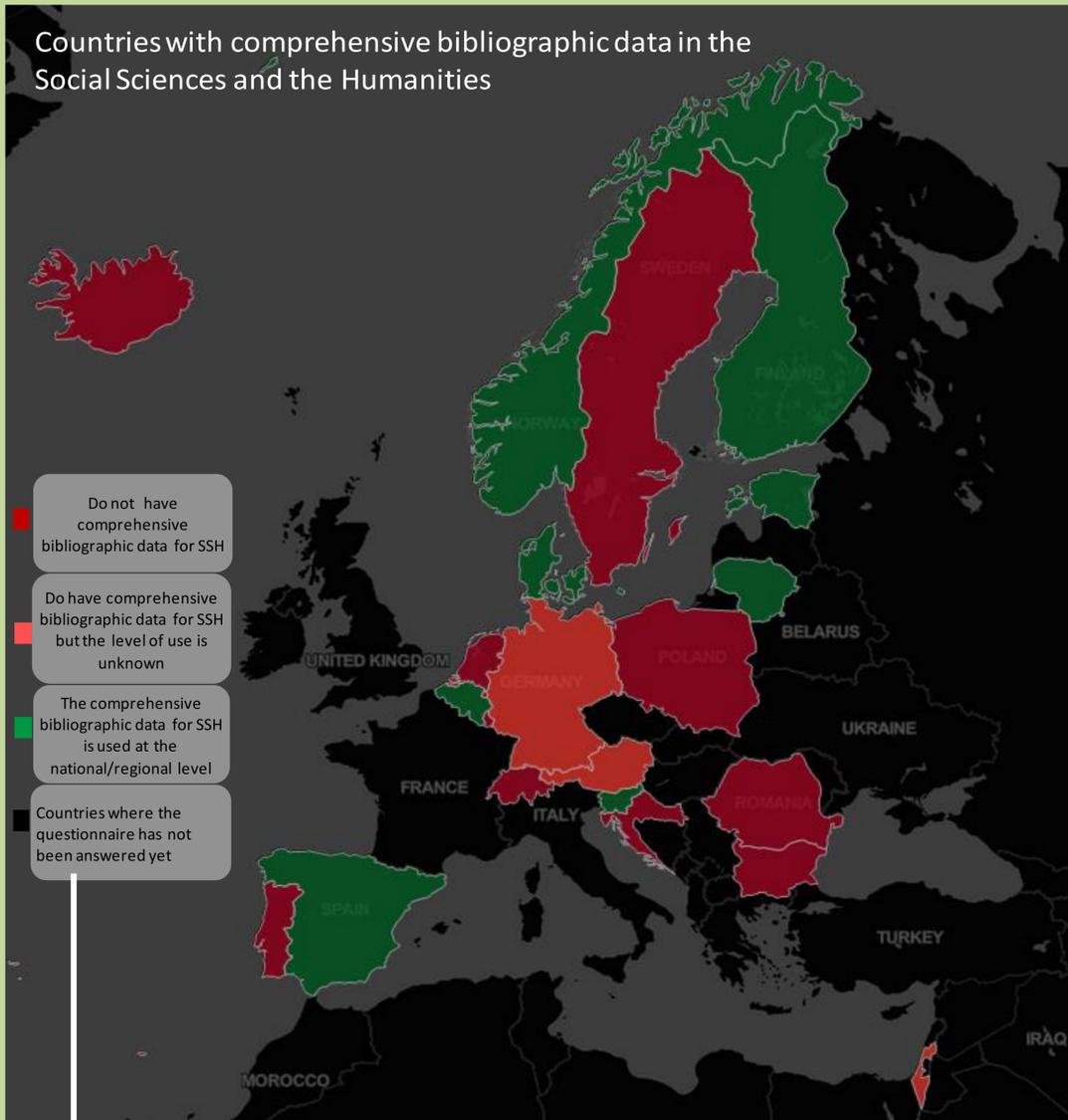
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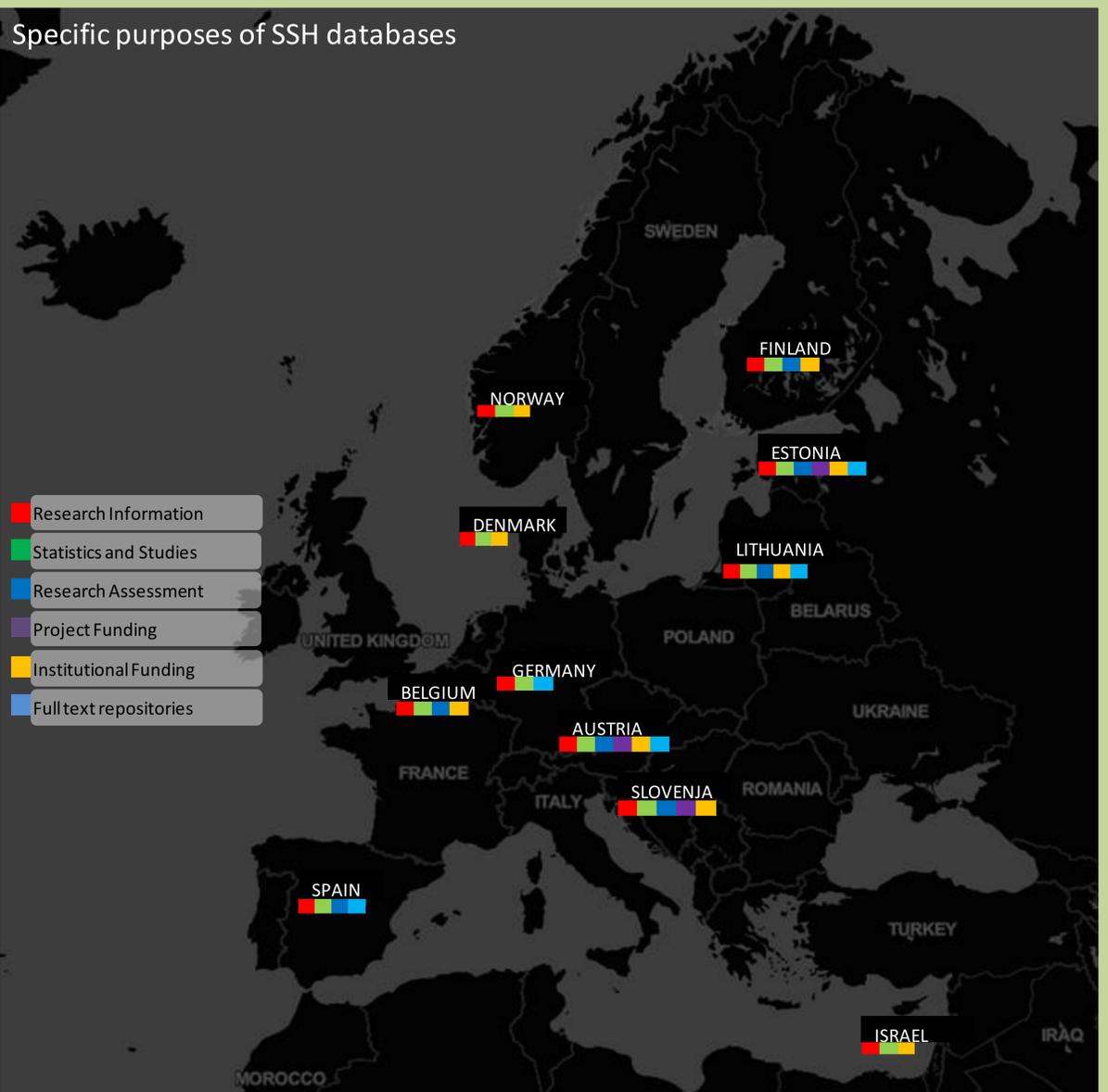


- More than 10 European countries have achieved comprehensive bibliographic data for the SSH.
- Except Germany and Spain, these are all smaller countries (in terms of population)
- Although in several countries progress towards achieving full coverage is being made, Croatia have actually reverted to evaluation using the Web of Science only. In Spain, support to systems that provide quality indicators for national journals has been weakened.

Please, send us an email to answer on behalf of your country!



- All countries that have comprehensive SSH data available, use it for research information, and statistics and studies goals.
- Except Germany and Spain, all countries also use it for institutional funding.
- In several countries we see increasing openness, e.g. with the generation of online public access catalogues, statistics and even full text repositories.



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