

Documenting information processes and practices: paradata, provenance metadata, life-cycles and pipelines

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Introduction

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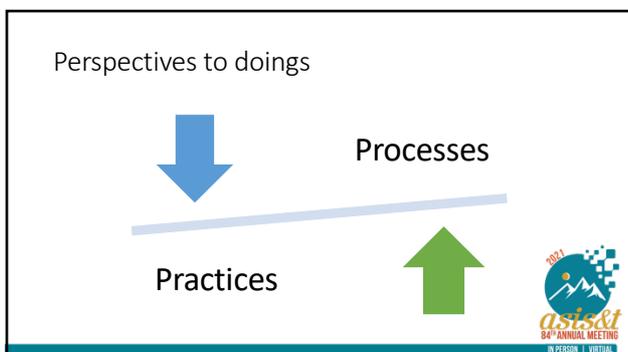
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Informational doings described as

- Workflows
- Process models
- Lifecycle models
- Process and provenance metadata
- Paradata
- ...



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Research on conceptualizing, documenting, and describing processes and practices in the information field



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More specifically

1. How **different conceptualisations** of processes and practices **influence how they emerge as describable entities**;
2. What **different approaches to document and describe** processes and practices exist and have been proposed in information science and technology research;
3. What **aspects of processes and practices different documentation approaches capture**, make visible and invisible;
4. What **novel insights** from the current state-of-the-art research can be drawn to **support practitioners** in different areas of the information field, including knowledge organisation, information management, information literacy instruction, and development of information systems and services.



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Approaches

Structured modelling-oriented approach

- explain and prescribe

Descriptions and documentation

- contextualised understanding



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Approaches

Structured modelling-oriented approach

- explain and prescribe

- knowledge organisation
- information-modelling
- ...

Descriptions and documentation

- contextualised understanding

- heritage studies
- anthropology
- science and technology studies
- ...



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Complexity of processes and practices mean that they often need to be explicitly described for outsiders.



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Process and practice data

- Provenance metadata
 - structured and unstructured documentation of (data) provenance
- Paradata
 - data on data-related processes and practices



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Process and practice descriptions and models

- Lifecycle documentation
- Structured logbooks
- Computational semantic labeling of data
- System documentation
- Process curation, preservation of processes
- Pipelines and scientific workflows
- Argumentation, process modelling, events-based models



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Different approaches and aims,
many common challenges



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Difficulties include

- Complexity and overlap of processes and practices
- What information on processes and practices is enough for different purposes
- Understanding descriptions and models requires specific competences and literacies
- Comprehensive (enough) documentation laborious and expensive to produce (and use)
- ...



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