

Social Science perspective: A short critique of Serenate D10

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I was instructed to stick to five minutes rather than to ppt.

A:

In Montpellier I stressed 4 perspectives:

1. Internationalisation and increasing comparative research on a global scale

There are networks of researchers 30 +, growing now by going East
Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES)
International Social Survey Program (ISSP)
European and World Values Survey (WVS)

2. Integrating the Socio-Economic evidence base:

So far the use of individual micro data from sample surveys or statistical counts of statistical offices is dominating socio-economic research. Increasingly households, firms, neighbourhoods, cities, regions, nations are the unit of observation or used as context information. This leads to the need for integration of data from survey interviews, text, pictures, sounds, sociographic maps.

3. Need for software for collaborative working in networks of researchers beyond videoconferencing down to level of sharing the evidence bases and methods.

4. Include the “future generation of scientists in schools”

using real data rather than simulated or games.

*** I found all points in on or the other form basically taken care of in the report!

B:

Criticism: In this case only Self criticism: I was too optimistic re problems with spam. Somebody who heard me at Montpellier must have put me on several lists. SPAM has exponentially increased over the past few months and performance is going down..

C:

Where could report be ammended or improved?

I found at least three uses of the term “infrastructure” like in:

“fibre infrastructure” on the one side and then “large infrastructure site such as radio astronomy array, or large telescope etc. (p.10)

And finally “specialised infrastructure services” e.g. software p. 11
In Social Research we would distinguish IT infrastructure from Social Science Service Institutes, like data services or large social science data bases as infrastructure.

In spite of a hint in the report, that infrastructure will be used in broad sense (p. 6). I suggest to include a clarification that IT infrastructure, which is generally needed to varying extent by all disciplines, should be distinguished from **discipline specific infrastructures**.

D.

What will be the impact of new technology on the human factor in research? Much of prior change introduced by technology push. So what will be the impact of new technology on the future social organisation of research?

Some theses:

- From Research Institutes with large office space to virtual institutes with small office and big social space.
- Teleworking in research will increase, new collaborative networks will emerge. What kind of support do they need?.

What effects will that have in turn on the technical networking needs? NRENs should listen to needs of users beyond technical needs and consider the social impact of new technologies (on work organisation, time budgets and even family life), since they will be concerned with acceptance and thus, long term success.