Exploring upgrade options for the CESSDA Data Catalogue

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EDDI21, the 13th Annual European DDI User Conference, November 30 – December 1, 2021

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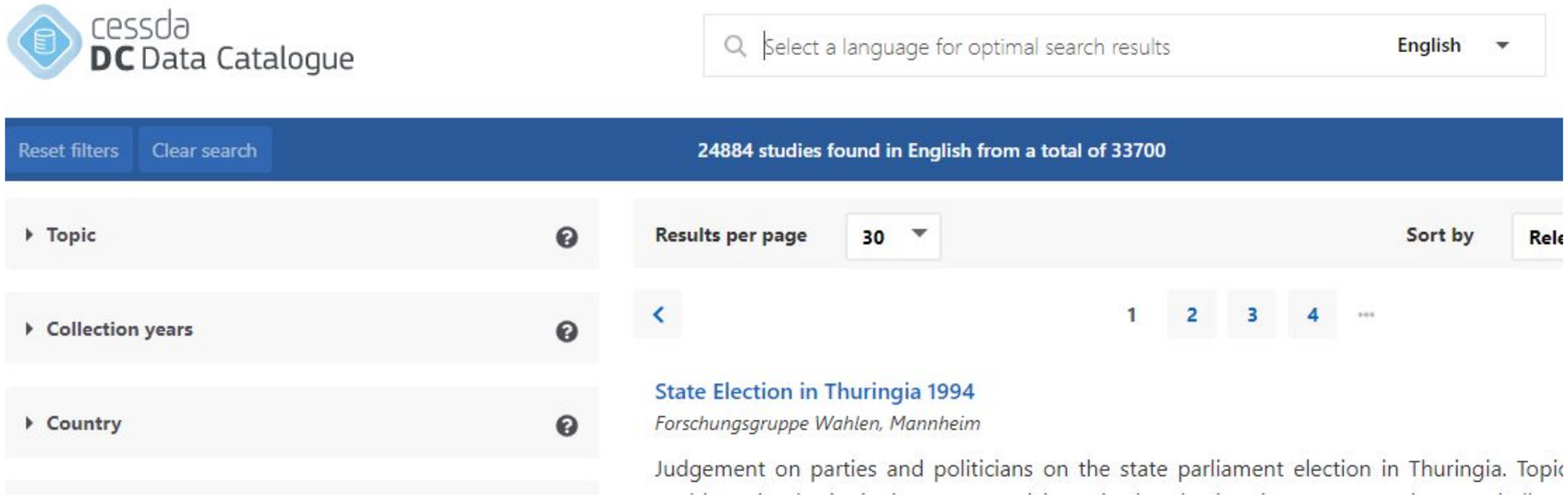
CESSDA DC Data Catalogue

https://datacatalogue.cessda.eu/

- contains metadata of studies from CESSDA service providers (SPs) and serves as an entry point for search and discovery of European social science data



Aim of the presentation

- Present the findings of the CDC Upgrade Task group under the CESSDA Agenda 21-24
- Aim of the task: to develop a list of recommended features and updates for the next version of CDC
  - including implementing search and discovery of variable-level information in CDC and selecting other prioritised items from the CDC wish list
- Methodologies implemented:
  - Desk research of available resources (SPs existing catalogues, other similar catalogues)
  - Survey of SPs about needed improvements of the CDC
  - Analysis of SPs variable-level metadata examples

Keeping track with current developments

- **Established contact** with CDC User Group, Dataverse Basecamp, Metadata Office, CDC User Experience Project

- **Following news and developments** within CESSDA:
  - CESSDA Data Access Policy
  - CDC upgrades and additional features:
    - validation of harvested metadata,
    - PID validation,
    - mapping to OpenAIRE, B2find, schema.org and Dublin Core
  - Tools Open Hour on Dataverse developments

Insight into SPs' views on CDC development

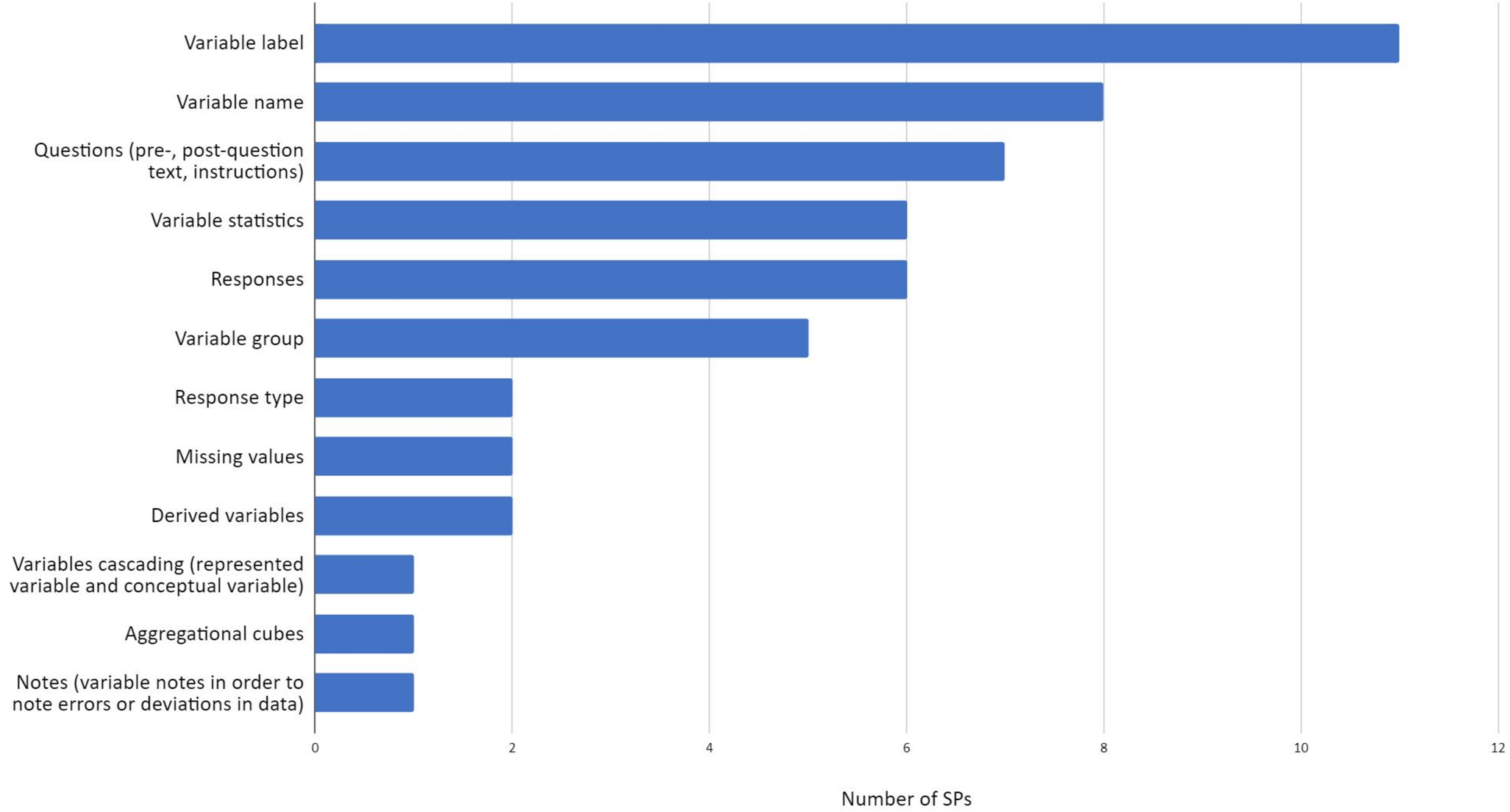
- 15 SPs responded to the survey and 9 provided variable metadata examples.
- **Additional filters that would be helpful:** data access, time method, dataset type
- **Richness of metadata in the current version:** enough metadata (6x), additional suggestions: universe, type of dataset, date when metadata published in CDC
- **Improvements of functionalities:** no improvements (9x), some ideas for improvements in terms of clarity and findability

Insight into SPs' views on CDC development

- **Improvements of user experience:**
  - language selection issues reported,
  - User Guide should be made more prominent,
  - adding a demonstration video on how to use the Catalogue,
  - similar studies list should include all studies in the catalogue and not only studies by the individual SP,
  - strong multilingual support is important

- **Additional information to be included in the CDC:** variable-level information, dataset type, citation, information about related publications etc.

Willingness to include variable-level information in CDC



Summary of the variable metadata examples

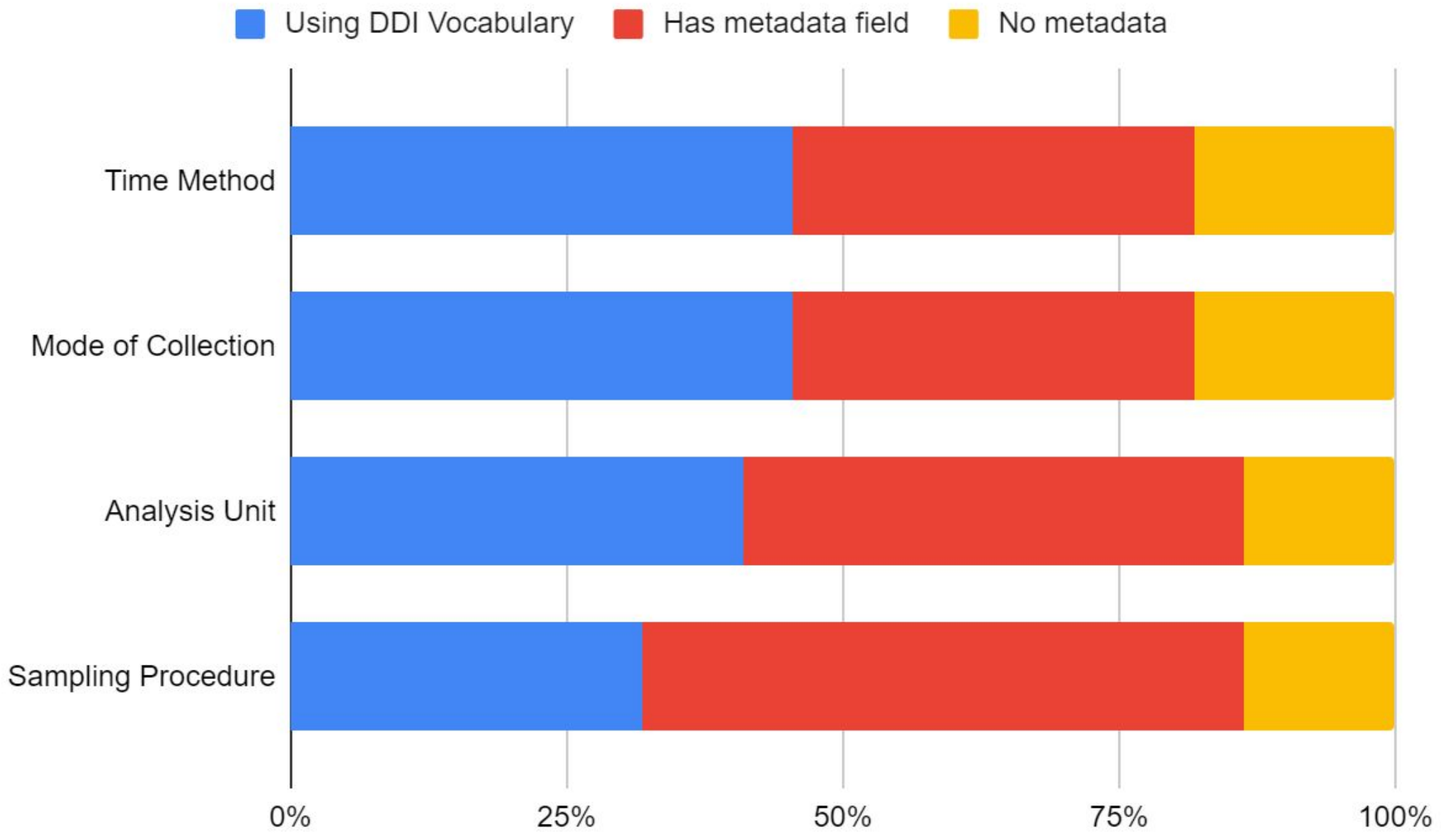
- 9 SPs sent us examples of variable information
- 8 DDI-C, 1 DDI-L

- **Variable information (9/9)**
  - All had ID, name and label
  - 8/9 if variable is continuous or discrete; 7/9 literal question text and 6/9 interviewer instructions
- **Summary Statistics 8/9**
- **Information on Categories and values**
  - All had label and value
  - 7/9 if category represents missing value and frequency of the category
- **Technical format (character or numeric) 7/9**
- **Variable groups (7/9)**
  - All 7 had reference to variables and label/text explaining variable group

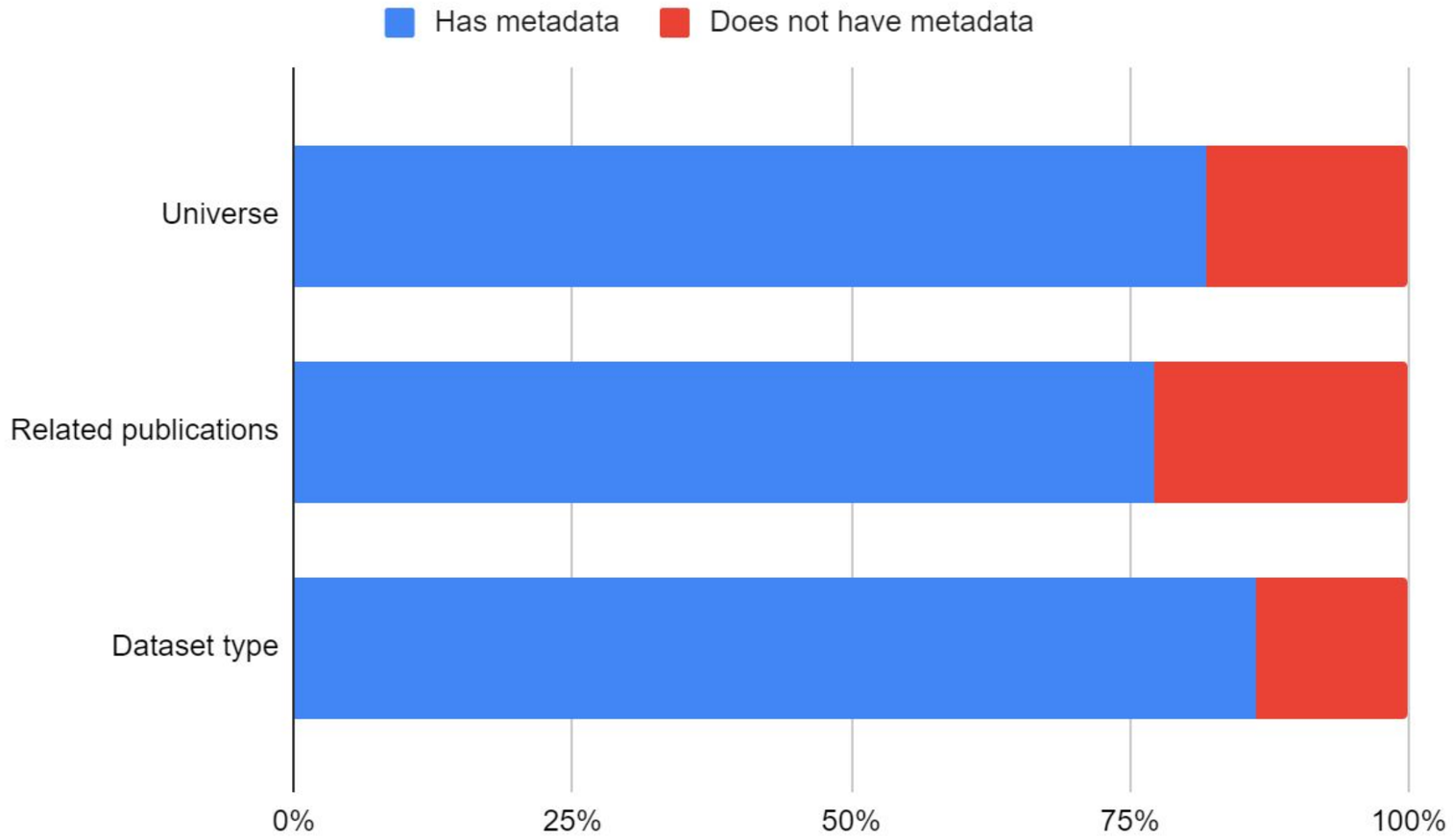
Desk research of SPs' metadata

- Data collected mostly in August 2021
- Source of the data: SPs' own catalogues
- Data include both SPs that already have their metadata in CESSDA catalogue and SPs not existing in catalogue yet
- "Research" questions included:
  - How many of the SPs are using DDI vocabularies or have at least some information about:
    - Analysis Unit
    - Mode of Collection
    - Time Method
    - Sampling Procedure
  - Is there information about related publications, universe and data type (quali/quanti or other)?
  - Which information SPs have about variables?

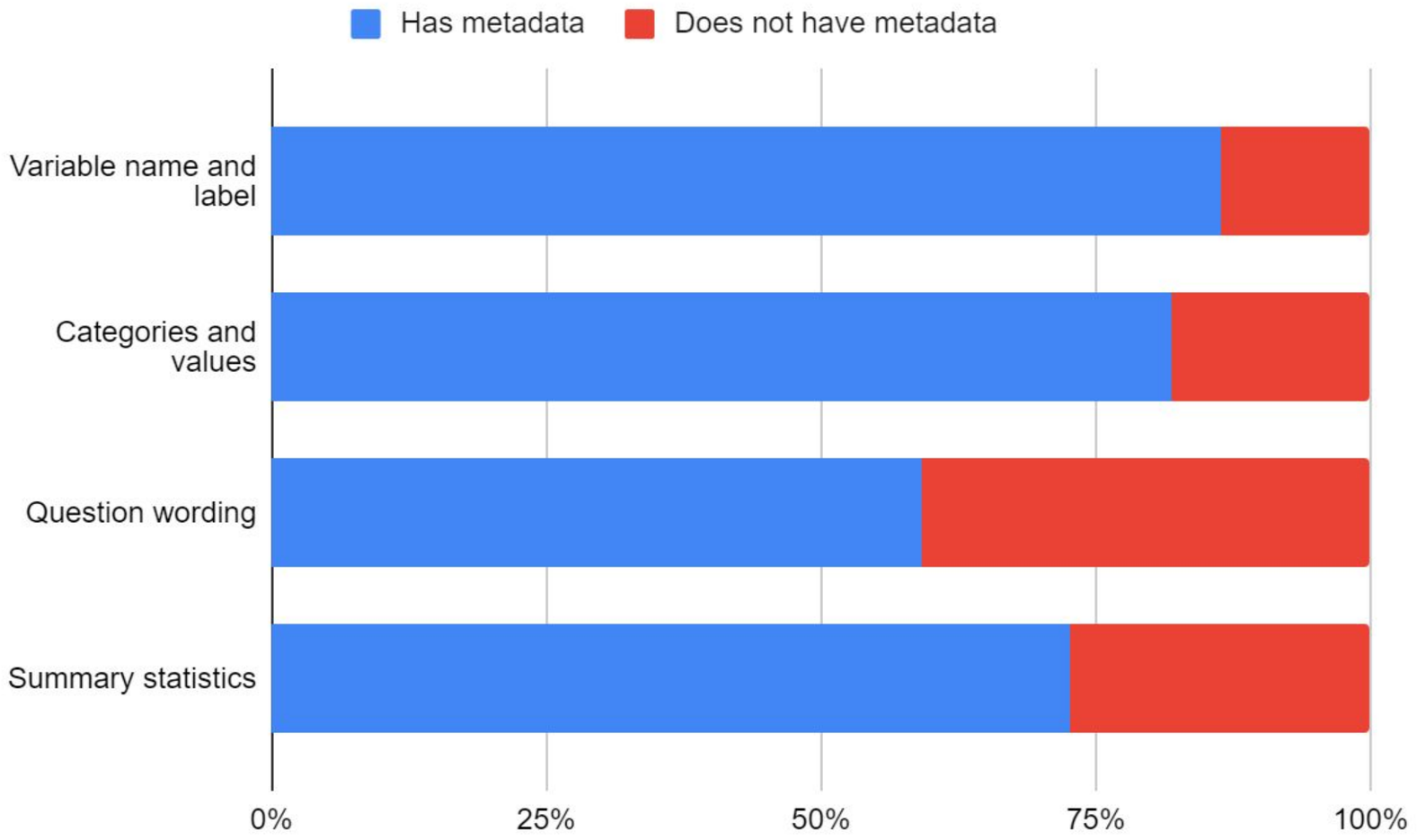
Usage of DDI vocabularies in specific fields



Presence of selected metadata fields



Variable-level metadata



Building the CDC on “ready made” applications

- Explored applications: Dataverse, Colectica

Use of Dataverse for CDC: good for presenting study metadata, however currently does not allow for variable-level discovery and search (some current developments from CESSDA SPs show possible solutions that CDC could use to display variable-level information).

- result: great for searching and filtering study metadata (customization available)
- result: potential multilinguality issues for metadata
- result: studies need to have a DOI
- result: could potentially be used in the future for CDC

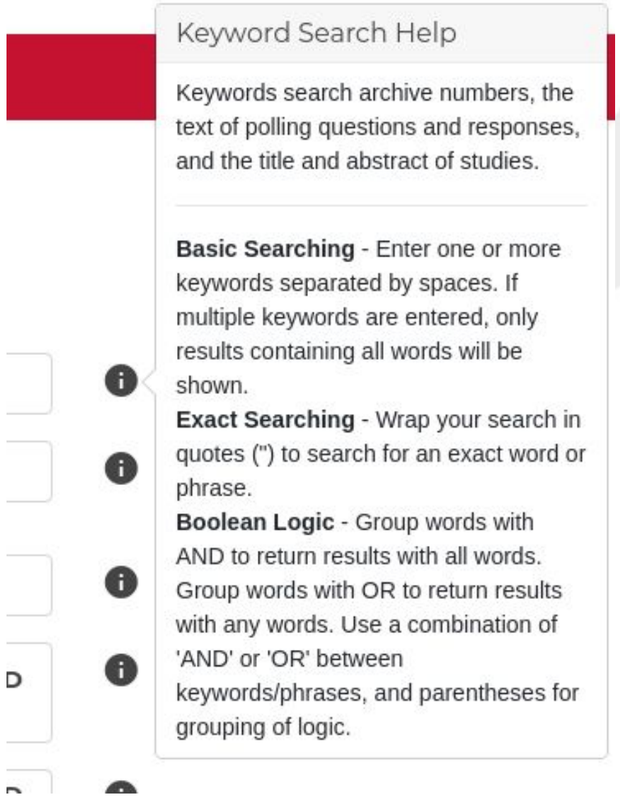
Use of Colectica for CDC: Covers almost the entire research lifecycle. Works well for longitudinal and repeat studies. Supports variable documentation including variable cascade and variable lineage structure. Multilingual metadata

- result: could potentially be used in the future for CDC
- result: web representation (Colectica Portal) is not designed for this purpose. Requires changes in configuration. New interface could be developed on top of the repository

A mix of both?

Comparing other data catalogues to CDC

- Data catalogues in general look similar and almost always have the same basic features
- Some useful features found on other catalogues that could be added to CDC:
  - Tooltips to include help about using the filter and the search in general (Roper iPoll)
  - Possibility to hide/show some information like the abstract in the result list (ICPSR)
  - Expanding some filters by default (Réseau Quetelet)
- Filters have some of the biggest differences
  - The amount of available filters varies a lot
    - CDC currently has 4 filters for the studies while ICPSR has 17
  - Other catalogues usually try to list all the options for filters in some way which ends up more complicated and takes too much space compared to CDC



Conclusions

- Challenge: build the CDC on the SPs' existing metadata (i.e., primarily DDI Codebook) or to advocate for a metadata upgrade (i.e., DDI Lifecycle, currently used by only a handful of SPs)
  - result could be limited functionality for end-users who want to search and find variables documented in different languages

- **Final conclusions of the task are work in progress**
  - Final report "*Requirements specification and plan for CDC upgrade / competitive evaluation*" due in March 2022

cessda DC Data Catalogue

Thank you!

Questions?

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