e-Social Science: Achievements and Future Prospects

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The National Centre for e-Social Science (NCeSS) was established by the U.K. Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) in 2004 as its contribution to the UK e-Science program. The goal of the NCeSS programme is to help social scientists make effective use of networked, interoperable, scalable computational tools and services to locate, access, share, aggregate, manipulate and analyse digitised data seamlessly and on a hitherto unrealisable scale, and thus be equipped to tackle new and ever more complex research challenges. In this talk, I will provide an overview of the NCeSS programme, including social science research challenges where the programme is making an impact, and review the programme’s progress towards achieving its goal. I will conclude by discussing the issues that the programme will need to address over the next five years as it seeks to consolidate and build upon the progress made.

Rob Procter

Rob Procter is Professor and Director of the Manchester eResearch Centre (MeRC) at the University of Manchester. From 2004 to 2009, he was Research Director of the ESRC-funded National Centre for e-Social Science, responsible for developing research strategy, coordinating development of applications of e-Infrastructure tools and services in social science research, and leading the investigation of socio-technical issues which influence the wider take up of e-Infrastructure-based solutions. Rob has published over 150 academic papers and is a co-editor of special issues of the Journal of Computer-Supported Cooperative Work on Collaboration and e-Research (2006) and the Social Science Computing Review Journal on e-Social Science (2009). He has been conference co-chair of the annual International Conference on e-Social Science from 2005 to 2009.