An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

Colectica & DDI in the CSO

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Background to CSO

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is Ireland's National Statistical Office
- Our purpose is to collect, analyse and disseminate Statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy
- I am currently working in Quality Management, Support & Assurance Division
- Currently responsible for managing and governing the roll-out of Colectica and the Classifications & Standards Section in the CSO

Overview

- Background into how our data collection process was before
- Our transition to a more systematic approach
- Live demo of our Colectica Portal
- Future aims for Metadata Management

Data Collection & Survey Design Before

- Previously subject matter experts in our Social Statistics sections had the responsibility of designing and creating questionnaires for their own statistical products
- Statisticians applied their own knowledge into the survey design and produced questionnaire specs for the IT Blaise team to develop

Data Collection & Survey Design Before Cont'd

- Disadvantages of designing surveys in this way;
  - Inconsistent Survey Design (no standard blocks of questions across different surveys for the same data)
  - Poor documentation across the Statistical process
  - Inconsistent survey specifications provided to Blaise
  - No final version of what went out onto the field

Data Collection & Survey Design Before Cont'd

- Historic questionnaires were stored across multiple Word documents & Blaise code formats.
- Implications arose such as;
  - Identify what questions we're used & worked previously
  - How to identify the linkage between questions cross multiple Surveys
  - Outputting Survey Specifications to field staff & data users
  - More time consuming to develop a survey
  - Error prone with no traceability, revisions or versions control

Our Motivation behind changing our Approach

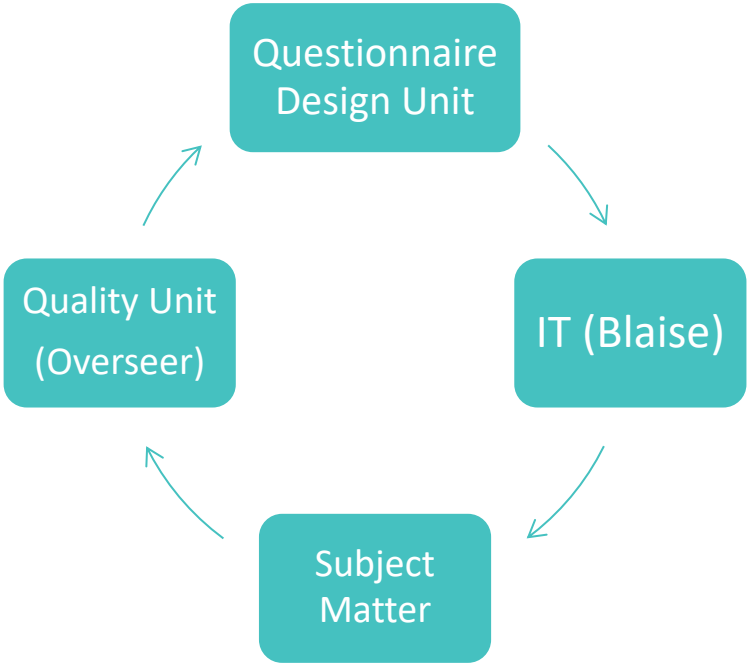
- Our aims through utilising the DDI standard & Colectica products;
  - To develop a central repository for standard & reusable questions
  - Allow a platform for all involved in the process to review and discuss
  - Standardise content and improve metadata across all Social Surveys
  - Improve survey documentation & reporting
  - Reduce workload and burden for IT, QDU and relevant SME's

Our Colectica Infrastructure

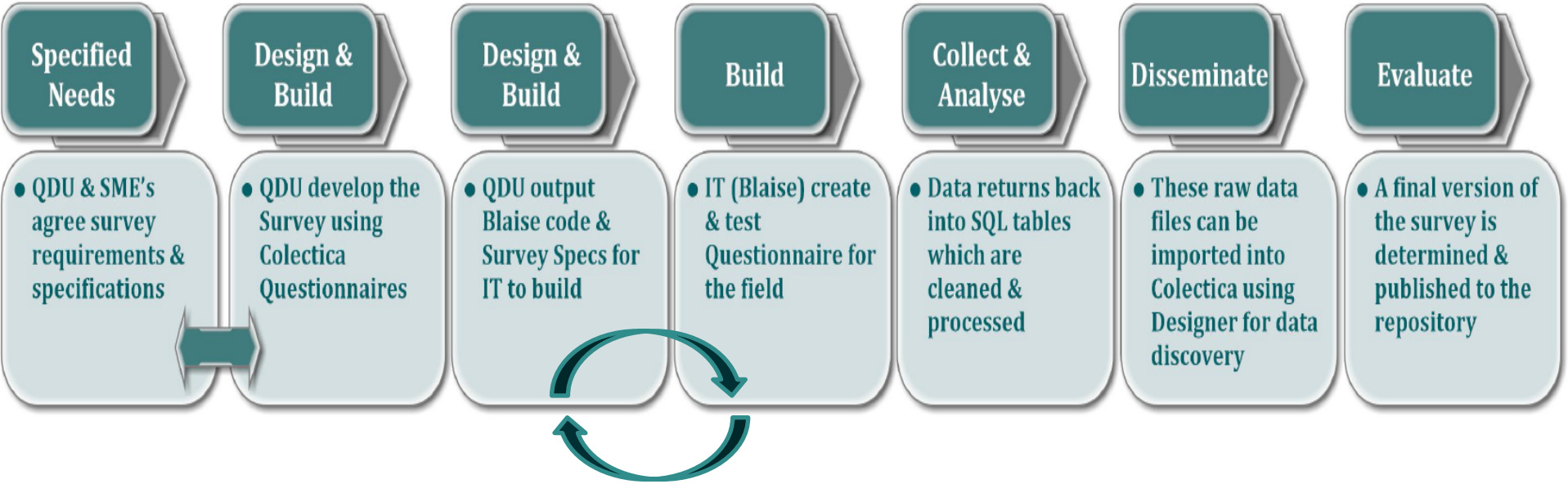
- Purchased Colectica in 2017

Colectica Repository	Colectica Portal	Colectica Designer	Colectica Questionnaires
• Centralised Storage System	• Web app for searching & browsing the repository	• Allows for advanced data mgmt. functionality	• Questionnaire creator

Stakeholders Involved



Questionnaire Development Process Now



Live Demo of Colectica

Challenges Faced

- Change in process results in a change of mind set
- Statisticians have transitioned from designing & giving questions to now providing variables & concepts
- Enforcing and governing standards
- Training requirements internally

Our Future Aims

- Disseminate a public facing portal for researchers & CSO Data users
- Advance work on data discoverability using data files and variables
- Utilise the ability of producing codebooks and SIMS Quality Reports through Colectica
- Continue standardising questions, variables & codelists used in all surveys

Thank you for listening

Any Questions?

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