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Handled by  
 Steffany Weerts

Date  
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Our reference  
 FGMW-18-F068

Subject  
 Reply Scientific Advisory Board to Research Review DANS

Dear Mrs Zaanen, dear Mieke,

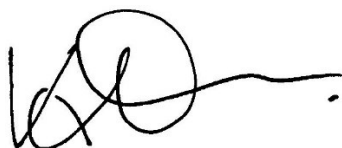
The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of DANS has discussed the research review conducted by QANU. The SAB is pleased to read that the review committee was clearly impressed by the performance of DANS and by its capacity to adjust to its rapidly changing environment. The SAB is also pleased with the review, and we recognize most if not all of the issues raised by the committee.

We agree that continued and even increasing attention of DANS for the user perspective is very important in the coming years. This task is especially challenging since the users of DANS are not a homogeneous group. They include, among others, researchers depositing data and using the DANS services, but also support staff in universities and other research institutions. The committee's suggestion to establish a sounding board for DANS-EASY (in addition to similar sounding boards for NARCIS and DATAVERSE) is well-taken. We expect that this will help DANS to become more visible at universities and other research institutions. These research institutions, which are not affiliated with a university (SCP, CBS, RCE, KB, to name but a few), deserve special attention in this respect since together they form a large and important partner for DANS.

We agree that DANS should continue to work from its home base in the social sciences and humanities; the SSH domain is not only its origin but also its main constituency. Within this domain, various subfields and data types (e.g. economics, register data) require specific attention. At the same time, the SAB observes that the borders between scientific domains are becoming more open, partly as a result of developments in digital resources. For example, many novel collaborations between social scientists and researcher in the life sciences have started in recent years, aimed at combining social and behavioral data with data on health indicators. We believe that such collaborations will become even more important in the future. Thus, while emphasizing the need to represent the SSH domain, the SAB thinks that from this home base DANS could cautiously expand into other domains. In fact, this is very much in line with the first two recommendations of the committee.

The SAB would like to stress that there are currently no major issues related to the dual headed supervision of DANS by KNAW and NWO. In fact, we think that the ties of DANS with both KNAW and NWO are important and valuable. We agree with recommendation #3 in the sense that the covenant of KNAW and NWO on DANS should be evaluated, starting from the recognition that both organizations are natural partners of DANS.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'K' followed by a circular flourish and a horizontal line ending in a small dot.

Prof. dr. Kees Aarts

Chair, Scientific Advisory Board DANS