## Thoughts on Question in DDI 3.3, HO input 1

The core components of an interview question can be said to be the question text and the response domain. Below follow some comments related to response domains. Then some thoughts about question text and at last about the relationship between questions and variables.

I’ll get back later with comments on combined question structures like the question grid.

### ResponseDomain comments

* StructuredMixedResponseDomain:

These are often reused within the same survey and over rounds/sweeps of the survey, for example a CodeDomain combined with a defined set of missing values. Would it make sense to make mixed domains reusable?

* ScaleDomain:

This regards documentation, so may also be relevant for DDI 3.2.

Does the ScaleDimension always have a ‘basis’ form that is horizontal, with a direction with increasing values from left to right equal to the X-axis of a coordinate system? I ask because values ‘Low’ and ‘High’ is used for the NumericRange, and sometimes the higher values are put to the left of a horizontal scale. This is important as the visual expression is so important for scales. In DDI this is further developed as attribute degreeSlopeFromHorizontal may be used to define the dimension, but to do this correctly would one not need to know what the ‘basis’ of ScaleDimension is like? degreeSlopeFromHorizontal is defined as *<A horizontal line is described as a 0 (zero) slope. Expressed as the number of degrees positive (right end angle above the horizontal line) or degrees positive (right end descending below the horizontal line)*>.

For an example, please see ISSP 1987 v65 at [ZACAT\_ISSP1987\_ZA1680\_V65](http://zacat.gesis.org/webview/index/en/ZACAT/ZACAT.c.ZACAT/ISSP.d.58/by-Year.d.69/International-Social-Survey-Programme-Social-Inequality-I-ISSP-1987.s.ZA1680/ISSP-demographics-and-interview-char-V65-V106-.h.2/SOCIAL-POSITION-RESPOND/fVariable/ZA1680_V65) This is a vertical scale for social position with Top (high) value 1 and Bottom (low) value 10. If the ‘basis’ of ScaleDimension is horizontal with increasing values from left to right, would degreeSlopeFromHorizontal as defines above for this be -270 degrees? Please forgive if I misunderstood or overlooked something here.

* Streemlining of response domains?

It may appear a bit confusing to new users that different solutions are made for CodeDomain and CategoryDomain than for the other response domains like ScaleDomain, where reference to a ManagedRepresentation is possible. Would it make sense to streamline this?

### Question text

The QuestionItem is a core reusable component in surveys. However, the question text in itself is sometimes also reused. Currently the QuestionText is inline in QuestionItem in DDI. Would it make sense to make this a maintainable structure on its own that can be reused by reference by the question item?

This would, however create an additional step compared to the current workflow.

### Relationship between variable and questions

* In DDI 3.2 a variable can reference a QuestionItem. But as the QuestionItem is the reusable part of the question in contrast to its implementation in the QuestionConstruct, while Variable is the implementation of the more reusable RepresentedVariable, would it make sense and be possible to let Variable reference QuestionConstruct as well?
* The link between single questions of a QuestionGrid (the combination of the question text (introduction text), the thing that is asked about (the request for an answer text) and the corresponding ResponseDomain), and Variable is now via parameter usage and arrays. Would a simpler/more direct connection make sense/be possible?