

REDCap Advanced Topics

University of Iowa



Institute for Clinical and
Translational Science (ICTS)

<https://www.icts.uiowa.edu/confluence/display/ICTSit/REDCap#REDCap-REDCapAdvancedTopicsTraining>





Data Dictionary

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https://www.icts.uiowa.edu/confluence/download/attachments/53149797/REDCap_Data_Dictionary.pdf



What is a Data Dictionary?

- **File generated by REDCap**
- **Captures all the fields in project**
 - ☐ Instruments
 - ☐ Field names
 - ☐ Field types
 - ☐ Questions
 - ☐ Responses
 - ☐ Branching logic



What it is and what it is not

- **What is it's purpose?**
 - The Data Dictionary captures the definition of your project at a specific point of time.
 - Enables you to reconstruct your entire project and the associated database fields.
- **What is *not* in the Data Dictionary?**
 - The only aspect of your project that is not saved in the Data Dictionary is the actual data collected from the participant responses.



Data Dictionary Best Practices

When should Data Dictionary be created?

- ❖ Before uploading new Data Dictionary.
- ❖ Prior to modifying production REDCap project.

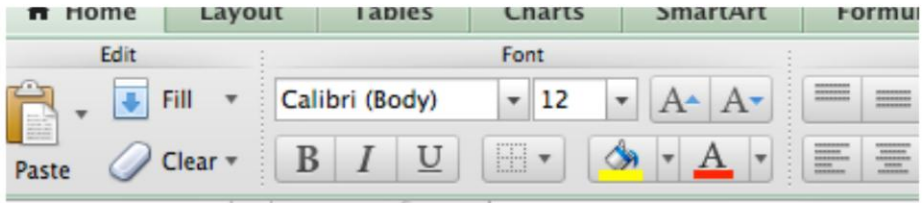
Why should a Data Dictionary be created?

- ❖ To create two nearly duplicate forms.
- ❖ A history of the project changes are recorded.
- ❖ Project can be reverted to previous version.
- ❖ Can be used as a reference for future studies.
- ❖ Can copy instrument from project to project.



Create a project from the Data Dictionary

- Create a project in the interface
- Download the Data Dictionary
- Edit the data dictionary rows/questions
- Upload the data dictionary



	A	B	C	D	E
	Variable / Field	Form Name	Section Header	Field Type	Field Label
2	study_id	demographics		text	Study ID
3	consented	demographics		yesno	Consented
4	first_name	demographics	Demographics Info	text	First Name
5	last_name	demographics		text	Last Name
6	dob	demographics		text	Date of Birth
7	sex	demographics		dropdown	Gender
8	address	demographics		notes	Street, City, State
9	phone_number	demographics		text	Phone number
10	interval_1	demographics		checkbox	Interval 1
11	interval_2	demographics		checkbox	Interval 2
12	interval_3	demographics		checkbox	Interval 3

Creating a copy of an form via the Data Dictionary

- **REDCap does not have a one button method to create a copy of a form (aka instrument).**
- **It is possible however to create a new form by importing a modified Data Dictionary.**



Procedure to create a form copy via Data Dictionary

- 1. Download current Data Dictionary.**
- 2. In the Data Dictionary, all fields that belong to the same form share the same form name.**
- 3. Inside Excel, copy the fields (except study_id) you wish to duplicate.**
- 4. Specify a unique form name for new form.**
- 5. Specify a unique variable name for each field.**
- 6. Upload the new Data Dictionary.**



Form copy via Data Dictionary

	A	B	C	D
1	Variable / Field Name	Form Name	Field Type	
2	study_id	primary_residence	text	St
3	primary_address	primary_residence	text	St
4	primary_city	primary_residence	text	Ci
5	primary_state	primary_residence	<u>dropdown</u>	St
6	primary_zip	primary_residence	text	Zi
7				

1. Select rows
2. Copy rows containing fields to duplicate

1. Paste
2. Rename field names
3. Rename form name
4. Save
5. Import

	A	B	C	D
1	Variable / Field Name	Form Name	Field Type	
2	study_id	primary_residence	text	St
3	primary_address	primary_residence	text	St
4	primary_city	primary_residence	text	Ci
5	primary_state	primary_residence	<u>dropdown</u>	St
6	primary_zip	primary_residence	text	Zi
7	secondary_address	secondary_residence	text	St
8	secondary_city	secondary_residence	text	Ci
9	secondary_state	secondary_residence	<u>dropdown</u>	St
10	secondary_zip	secondary_residence	text	Zi
11				

Storing the Data Dictionary

Where should Data Dictionary be stored?

- ✓ Local Hard Drive
- ✓ Departmental Shared Drive
- ✓ Project's File Repository
 - Organized with associated project
 - Can be accessed by members of project



Naming the Data Dictionary

What should Data Dictionary be named?

- Filename containing download date
- Preserve the *.csv file extension
- Keep Comma Separated Value file format
- Default filename is acceptable
 - For example, if project is named “BioBank” the filename would be:

BioBank_DataDictionary_2012-01-25.csv



REDCap Newsletter

- **Monthly REDCap Newsletter**

- ☐ Upcoming Training
- ☐ Walk-in Hours Schedule
- ☐ Helpful Tips
- ☐ New REDCap Functionality
- ☐ Frequently Asked Questions (and answers)
- ☐ REDCap Best Practices



- **REDCap LISTSERV Subscription:**

- ☐ <https://list.uiowa.edu/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=REDCAP&A=1>



REDCap Documentation

- Training within REDCap:

- FAQs (Help & FAQ Tab):



<https://redcap.icts.uiowa.edu/redcap/index.php?action=help>

- Video (Training Resources Tab):



<https://redcap.icts.uiowa.edu/redcap/index.php?action=training>

- Local REDCap documentation:



<https://icts.uiowa.edu/confluence/display/ICTSit/REDCap>

