

Article 4 : Secondary analysis of qualitative data

The paper "Sekundäranalyse qualitativer Daten: Ein Überblick" offers a comprehensive exploration of secondary analysis of qualitative data in social research, authored by Janet Heaton. Here's a condensed summary:

The paper begins by addressing the surge in interest in secondary analysis of qualitative data since the mid-1990s. Heaton outlines the methodology's essence and its distinctions from other qualitative research approaches. She then delves into the development of this methodology, citing factors such as advancements in data archiving and computing, as well as international initiatives promoting data sharing.

Furthermore, Heaton discusses existing approaches to re-using qualitative data, emphasizing that researchers predominantly rely on their own data obtained through informal sharing or self-collection. She categorizes these approaches into five types of secondary analysis, shedding light on their prevalence and characteristics.

Ethical and legal considerations in qualitative secondary analysis are also thoroughly examined, including issues like informed consent, confidentiality, and data protection. Heaton concludes by stressing the need for policy development to encompass all sources of qualitative data and ensure ethical practices.

In essence, the paper provides valuable insights into the evolving landscape of secondary analysis of qualitative data, underscoring its significance in contemporary social research and the need for ethical frameworks to guide its practice.

Conclusion:

- Interest in secondary analysis of qualitative data has grown internationally, with researchers primarily re-using their own data.
- Policy development should consider all sources of qualitative data, including archives, informal networks, and self-collected datasets.
- Ethical and legal considerations must be addressed to ensure responsible and ethical practices in re-using qualitative data.

