

Frustration Report: Reflections on Dataset Selection and Research Question Formulation

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1. Challenges Faced

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| → Dataset Selection Difficulties:

| → The vast number of datasets available on the World Bank platform made it challenging to identify one that aligned with my research objectives.

| → Many datasets had overlapping themes, requiring extra effort to distinguish their uniqueness.

| → Understanding Dataset Structure:

| → Some datasets contained complex variable names and codes, making interpretation difficult.

| → The lack of clear documentation for certain datasets made it harder to grasp relationships between variables.

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2. Difficulties in Formulating Research Questions

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| → Defining Relevant Questions:

| → Ensuring that the questions were specific, researchable, and aligned with the dataset's scope was a challenge.

| → Some initial questions turned out to be too broad or lacked clear analytical direction.

| → Aligning Data with Analytical Methods:

| → Understanding which statistical or analytical techniques could be applied to the dataset was difficult.

| → Some datasets had missing values or inconsistencies that complicated the research approach.

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3. Strategies Used to Overcome Obstacles

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| → Dataset Understanding:

| → Explored metadata and documentation provided with datasets to understand variables.

| → Used trial-and-error methods by loading datasets into a tool (e.g., Python, Excel) to explore data structures.

| → Formulating Research Questions:

| → Reviewed academic papers and existing research to see how similar datasets were used.

| → Engaged in discussions with peers and mentors to refine research questions.

| → Addressing Analytical Challenges:

| → Conducted exploratory data analysis (EDA) to identify trends and limitations.

| → Researched suitable analytical methods that aligned with the dataset's format.

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4. Reflections and Lessons Learned

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| → What Would I Do Differently?

| → Start by reviewing dataset documentation before selecting one to avoid later difficulties.

| → Define a clear research objective first, then find a dataset that aligns with it.

| → Impact on Future Research Approach:

| → Improved understanding of dataset selection criteria.

| → Greater appreciation for pre-planning research questions before diving into data analysis.

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