Data Collection: More Methods

Diary Study

- Participants keep a log of their thoughts, experiences, and activities over a defined period of time, usually a few days to several weeks.
- Sometimes called a camera study.

Diary Study - Tools

- dscout
  - A diary study tool and remote research platform that allows you to design, recruit, field and analyse diary studies in one place. This end-to-end diary study tool offers 'missions' for the participants to complete.
- Indeemo
  - A smartphone app for mobile interactions and qualitative research with a simple interface for participants and clients to understand. It allows users to add photos, videos, text and record their screens which is handy for software testing.
- SurveySignal
  - An SMS data collection tool that allows you to send participants surveys either with a unique ID code. These texts can be scheduled and flexible with a mix of measurements.

Diary Study - Tools

- LifeData
  - An experience sampling tool that allows you to capture individuals' experiences in real-time, with a focus on the healthcare market. The data feeds into clinical trials, allowing researchers to monitor participants through the platform's dashboards and evaluate their outcomes.
- Ilumivu
  - Another academic tool used for remote studies with a focus on healthcare and the medical industry. It integrates with wearable devices and sensors to generate and collect data that isn't just subjective and can match physical symptoms with other factors, like the time when the user completes the survey, to align the user's mental state and other factors like stress with the information collected.

Automated Data Collection

- Use computer software and systems to collect data automatically.
- May simply mean a scanner combined with OCR software to convert paper document into data in electronic forms

Automated Data Collection Tools

- Web logs
  - Web servers, email servers, and database servers all generate log files that store records of requests and activity.
- Activity-logging software
  - Software tools for logging and recording user activity can provide rich data (mouse movements and clicks, keystrokes, and other interactions) for usability studies.
  - Unlike the web server logs described earlier, these data collection tools can be applied to many different applications, providing the possibility of insight into the use of email, office productivity tools, and core operating system features.
- Custom software
  - Have a piece of software collect data on its own usage.
  - The program would store every important user action—menu choices, toolbar button selections, key presses, and more, in a log file or database, in chronological order with a timestamp..