

Case 2: Professor Green

Dr. Green is a social science researcher studying teamwork in high-stress environments. His work is largely independent, but occasionally he has funding for graduate students or collaborates with a colleague. His research is varied, but he is particularly interested in a data management plan for a project he is working on with the help of two Masters students; it is representative of the typical project he undertakes.

Dr. Green is examining teamwork in hospital environments, specifically interdisciplinary primary care teams, which span disciplines and areas of expertise. He is using two primary methods of data collection; the first is a textual / content analysis of 383 individual documents describing the teams, their outcomes, and their practices, obtained from healthcare organizations; these documents are a mix of Word, PDF, plain text, and other documents, all digital, stored in a Zotero database (size unknown). Quantitative data about these documents is stored in an Excel spreadsheet. The second is conducting interviews (approximately 15) with key informants. These interviews will be conducted over the phone, will last for approximately 60 minutes, will be recorded as an MP3 file, and will be transcribed using Microsoft Word. The key informants will be asked a variety of questions about how the interdisciplinary primary care teams work, and are very concerned about loss of reputation / loss of job if it becomes known that they criticized the teams or their colleagues. Dr. Green has promised complete confidentiality to participants, which is a challenge in the (relatively) small world of the primary care medical community.

Dr. Green also makes use of a variety of open data sets regarding healthcare, including healthcare outcomes, healthcare expenditures, healthcare staffing, enrolment by discipline, and demographic data like the average income of various professions involved in primary care.

The data for this experiment is held closely and not shared with anyone; the documents dataset was created after days and weeks of effort searching healthcare provider websites and internal networks and Dr. Green is unwilling to let others use it since he

did all of the work. The audio files and transcriptions could potentially identify participants, and Dr. Green is vehemently refusing to share those with anyone in order to protect the confidentiality of participants.

Communication with the research team happens using Zotero (for documents) and Dropbox (for audio files) and Google Docs (for transcriptions). Dr. Green maintains a master copy / backup on a USB key which he takes with him in his briefcase at all times for safekeeping. This means of accessing information is communicated by Dr. Green in project meetings.

Previous data collected by Dr. Green is not available, though he does have a binder of printed spreadsheets from a study he completed in 2002.