CEPC 0904
Professor Jack Hester
Due July 14 2020 at 11:59pm EDT

# Homework 3 — List of Data Sources

*20 points*
*Submission link: https://canvas.brown.edu/courses/1085057/assignments/7833095*
*Submit as a Word document or PDF*

You've now worked through some of the details of you project idea and have created your first research question. I should (hopefully) have given you feedback on your question as well. Now it's time to figure out what data you are going to use to answer your research question!

For the majority of you who are asking quantitative questions, you will want some data set(s) that have a numerical aspect or at least that you are going to convert to a numerical format. This will allow you to run numerical analysis and/or statistical tests.

For those who are more interested in qualitative analysis, you are likely going to gather some kind of document (or perhaps something from some other medium in rare cases) that you will dive into and sort through as you do your analysis. You will probably be answering more "how" and "why" questions that do not demand numerical data or precise results.

With this in mind, I'm hoping this assignment will help you to work through the process of determining which data you need and finding out where to access them.

First, restate your (revised) research question:

Second, what kind of research are you planning to do (qualitative or quantitative) and why?

Third, list what data, variables, or documents would be ideal to answer your research question. These can be listed as general types/sets and it doesn't have to be the real-world name or publisher of the data or documents. Imagine you could access *any theoretical* data set for this step.

Fourth, do some searching to see if these exist. If not, try to find something that you think is a good substitute or will allow you to do similar analysis. List the general categories/types as you did above and note which ones are different than your idea. If you find some that are different than your ideal, note what the differences are.

Fifth, list the source(s) you have in mind as well as the variables or documents you are going to explore within each. You may also want to list the sample size if possible. It would be good practice for you to try to cite the sources in whatever citation style you might want to use—think back to finding a journal and citation style in your introductory modules. It may be helpful to revisit the citation management software module at https://canvas.brown.edu/courses/1085057/pages/citation-tools?module_item_id=10682394. I've also uploaded a video on how to use Zotero to the lectures page here https://cepc-0904.jackhester.com/lectures.html. You may prefer using Zotero as it's is very user friendly and free to use even after you leave Brown (all of your citations will be preserved too).

Woohoo—you're one critical step closer to your project being complete! This doesn't have to be your final list, and I will review it and give you feedback as usual. Try to be as complete in your answers as possible though, as this allows me to guide as best as possible!