Term Project: The Experience of Academic Librarians and Archivists with Invisible Illnesses and/or Disabilities Dataset and Metadata Profile

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LIS 545 B

Term Project: Data and Metadata Profile

URL to data set: Hidden Barriers: [The Experience of Academic Librarians and Archivists with Invisible Illnesses and/or Disabilities Data Set](https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Hidden_Barriers_The_Experience_of_Academic_Librarians_and_Archivists_with_Invisible_Illnesses_and_or_Disabilities_Dataset/17161328?file=31767911)

**Data Overview**

Quirin Manwiller, Peter, Anderson, and Crozier (2023) set out to identify hidden barriers faced by “MLIS-holding” professionals with disabilities or illnesses that may not be consistently observable, colloquially known as an invisible illness. Their data set includes quantitative data, like demographic information, qualitative data measured through quantitative values, like close-ended and Likert scale questions, and qualitative open-ended responses (Pragadeesh, 2021).

**Data Origins**

The data comes from an anonymized thirty-question survey conducted as part of research at West Chester University and the University of Wyoming. Three hundred and fifty-five respondents, geographically located in the United States, responded. However, around 60 were disqualified due to either not working in the library/archive field or not having an invisible disability (Quirin Manwiller et al., 2023).

**Key Stakeholders**

Key stakeholders for this data include library professionals at all levels of knowledge of invisible illness, position in their organization, and personal disability. A disabled individual could use this data to advocate for better accommodations, and similarly, a library administrator could use this data to make relevant budgetary, accessibility, and policy delicious. Researchers in other fields could cite this data to propose research into their own professional community’s experiences with invisible illness. West Chester University and the University of Wyoming also stand to benefit from this data as its citations could raise prestige, and the researchers themselves would share in that benefit.

**Data Files**

There are two files included, one is a CSV file that contains the anonymized responses of the 355 survey respondents, and the other is a TXT file that includes both the survey questions and relevant metadata. The CSV file does include the survey questions in the second row, but the default columns are quite thin. This means users either spend meticulous time expanding those columns or be lucky and stumble upon a more readable version in the TXT file.

**Software Requirements**

CSV files can be opened by “any text editor or spreadsheet program,” but most users would be using Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets (Carnes, 2019). TXT files can be opened by “all text editors” since there is “no special formatting” (Text File Format, n.d.). Specific examples include Microsoft Word, the Windows Notes app, Google Docs, and so on. The metadata states that the data was analyzed using Qualtrics, which is an online survey tool that helps users collect, analyze, and distribute survey responses (Quirin Manwiller et al., 2023).

**Usage Restrictions**

This data set has the following license: CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. According to Creative Commons (2024), this means that users are allowed to share the data set as long as the researchers are credited, the purpose is non-commercial, and the data is not being altered substantially. The researchers also included a DOI and recommended citations for easier, stable references.

**Metadata Content and Comprehensiveness**

The metadata covers the following: a title, author, abstract, keywords, discipline, geographic research location, license, other sharing/access rules, recommended citations, data overview, methodological information, variable counts, and so on. Needless to say, that is fairly comprehensive, but several key pieces of metadata are inaccurate or missing, such as not adding a DOI in the provided spot for a DOI to go. They also say there is not a published version of this data, which might have been accurate when added to FigShare in 2021 but is not true as of their 2023 publication discussed below.

**Metadata Location**

The metadata is exclusively in a separate TXT file, the data set itself has only questions and responses.

**Metadata Standard**

No metadata standard is referenced in the TXT file, so I referenced visuals of Dublin Core, MODS, CWM, and so on and did not locate metadata that looked similar.

**Potential Improvements and Data Set Publication**

The researchers should have included the survey questions as a separate file rather than including them at the bottom of the TXT file. Survey questions are data in their own right, as they are variables to the research being done. Including them in a separate file, even as an appendix like they did in their 2023 publication, would have made it easier for users to locate them (Quirin Manwiller et al., 2023).

There are also easy updates that are missing from the metadata, such as copying in the DOI. It’s easy to assume that when writing the metadata the DOI hadn’t been established yet, but it should have been updated upon publishing.

The metadata also references making graphs through the software Qualtrics, but these graphs are not included in the files uploaded to FigShare (Quirin Manwiller et al., 2023). The graphs are included in the [journal publication of this work at the College and Research Libraries](https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/26024/33938#:~:text=Respondents%20reported%20barriers%20including%20professional,and%20disability%20in%20the%20profession.). The graphs are a much faster way to analyze the data than to start from scratch with the raw data without the observations that the users have already made. Ideally, these graphs, as well as a full PDF of the final published version, would be included in the FigShare files. Bringing it back to the metadata itself, a link to this publication should have been included in the metadata for greater accessibility and discovery.

The 2023 publication also includes [a Dublin Core metadata file](https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/rt/metadata/26024/33938), which would be excellent to include in the FigShare files. For this metadata, the metadata schema could not be more clear as it is noted explicitly (Quirin Manwiller et al., 2023).

**Listed Publications**

There are not any publications listed or provided with the dataset. The “Read Me” file includes a space to add publications but it has not been updated since the data set was uploaded to FigShare.

**References to Dataset**

To search for citations of this data, I used a combination of Google Scholar and UW Library’s search engine. While I found similar research studies on disability in the library profession, a scouring of their references did not include this specific data set. According to the 2023 publication of the research, the article has been viewed roughly 2,463 times since its publishing, so it is not completely obscure in the field (Quirin Manwiller et al., 2023).

References

Carnes, B. (2019, November 1). What is a CSV file and how to open the CSV file format. Free Code Camp. <https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/what-is-a-csv-file-and-how-to-open-the-csv-file-format/>

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