Using Data in Research

UCLA Library Data Archive

Fall 2017

Today's Topics

- UCLA Library Data Archives
- ▶ The role of data in your research
- How to search for and acess data for research
- Resources, tools and support available to students at UCLA
- Publishing and Data Management Plans

UCLA Library Data Archives

- ► Formerly Social Science Data Archives
- On the UCLA campus since 1961 About the Data Archive
- Available to all UCLA faculty and students

► Holdings include public opinion polls, census data, crime stats, political and social behavior, etc.



https://www.library.ucla.edu/location/social-science-data-archive

Data Archives: Our services

- Reference: assist students to find and use data
- Data Management Plans
- Metadata
- Provide training: Software/Library carpentry / Software Carpentry R-language







► Host events and lectures: Data Archive News and Upcoming Events

Role of Data in Research

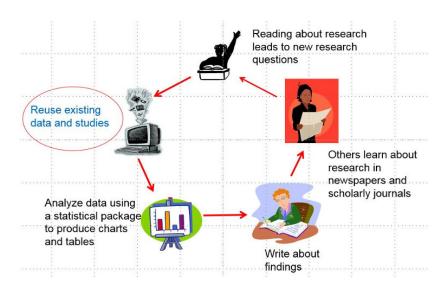


Figure 1: illustration: Role of Data in Research

Finding Out About Data Sources

- UCLA Library Data Archive
- Colleagues
- Public media (newspapers, news)
- Social media (twitter, etc)
- Scholarly literature
- Government reports and documents
- Archives and project websites
- Codebooks, questionnaires
- Exploration of datasets

Search Strategies

- General to specific; broad to narrow
- ▶ Names of investigators; names of studies
- Studies described in literature, news and websites

Geography	Physical areas			Government units					Other – school districts, etc.	
Time period		Current			Historic		Ov		er time	
		etc.	etł	ce, inicity, cestry,	Person	ns	Housel	hol	ds	Other – schools, hospitals, etc.
Context	What is your hypothesis? What will the data tell you? How will you interpret it?									
Variables in the dataset		What variables do you need to answer your research question?								

How do I know this study useful?

- Raw data are not eye-readable
- To decipher data you will use Questionnaires and Codebooks

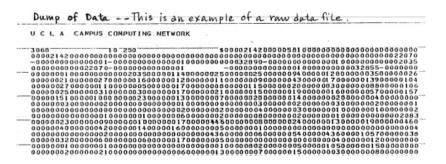


Figure 2: illustration: Raw Data

What is a Questionnaire?

- A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents.
- Questionnaires cover separate topics such as:
 - Preferences (e.g. political party)
 - ▶ Behaviors (e.g. food consumption)
 - ► Facts (e.g. gender)
- Questionnaires can include indexes or scales:
 - Latent traits (e.g. personality traits)
 - Attitudes (e.g. towards immigration)
 - ► An index (e.g. Social Economic Status)

Questionnaire

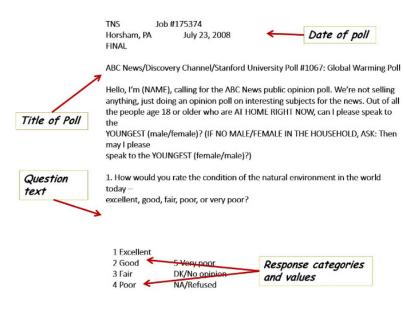


Figure 3: illustration: ABC News Poll

Codebook

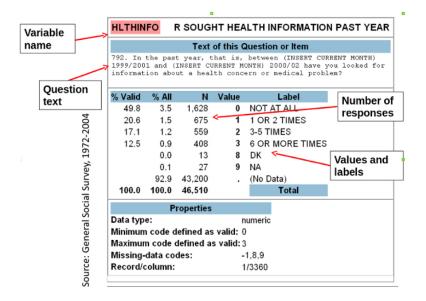


Figure 4: illustration: General Social Survey

Codebooks: Example #2



Figure 5: illustration: Raw data and codebook

ICPSR Data Site

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research http://www.icpsr.umich.edu



News

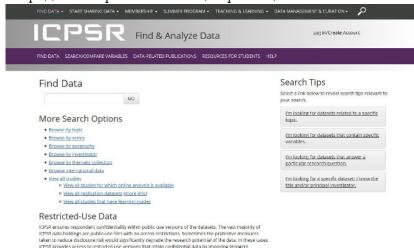
More Headlines
view all news



ICPSR: Find Data

requirements for accessing them, (more)

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR





ICPSR: Register to Access Data

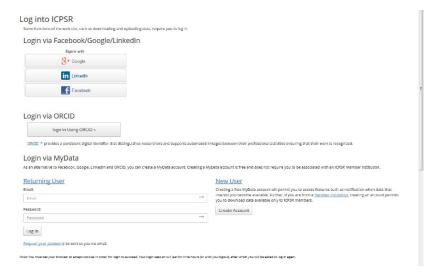


Figure 7: illustration: ICPSR Register

ICPSR: Search by Topics

Browse by Topic

Users have two options for identifying studies related to a particular topic.

- . Topic Classifications address topics broadly, and are meant to be a good starting point for exploring the collection.
- . The Thesaurus contains both broad and narrow terms that are more specific to the subject matter of individual studies.
- . Our Thematic Collections are full websites that focus on particular subject areas.

Topic Classifications

I. Census Enumerations: Historical and Contemporary Population Characteristics

A. United States

1. Decennial Censuses

a. 1790-1960 Censuses

b. 1970 Census

c. 1980 Census

d. 1990 Census

e. 2000 Census

f. 2010 Census

2. American Housing Survey Series

3. Current Population Survey Series

4. Other Census, Including County and City Data Books

B. Nations Other Than the United States

II. Community and Urban Studies

A. Studies of Local Politics 1. United States

2. Nations Other Than the United States

B. Detroit Area Studies

C. Historical Urban and Community Structure Studies

III. Conflict, Aggression, Violence, Wars

A. Conflict and Stability Within Nations

B. Conflict Between and Among Nations

IV. Economic Behavior and Attitudes

A Continuing Series of Consumer Superior

Figure 8: illustration: ICPSR Search by Topics

ICPSR: Search for and Compare Variables

Search/Compare Variables

The Social Science Variables Database (SSVD) enables (CPSR users to examine and compare variables and questions across studies or series. The SSVD currently includes over 4 million variables, representing about 76% of (CPSR's holdings that have quantitative data described in statistical synthesis.

The SSVD does not include our entire collection. For a comprehensive search of all datasets, use our <u>main data search</u>, which indexes all of the documentation available for our studies, including the variable descriptions.



- · Browse by Study
- Browse by Series

Comparing Variables

Compare variables using the checkboxes and the "Compare" button on the search results page.



Search Tips

 Enter words or strings that are likely to appear in a variable name, label, question, and value labels:

Presidential election will return variables dealing with all presidential elections

Presidential election Obama will return only variables dealing with the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections

 Use quotes to search for specific phrases:

"life satisfaction" "minority rights" "community programs"

 The minus sign may be used to remove certain types of results:

"Presidential debate" - "Bill Clinton" will eliminate the debates from 1992 and 1996 In which Clinton participated

- A Boolean "and" is implied in the search.
- The search automatically does stemming (<u>more</u> <u>info</u> ²); there's no need to type in an asterisk, It's also

Figure 9: illustration: ICPSR Search for and Compare Variables

ICPSR: Compare Variables

Compare Variables

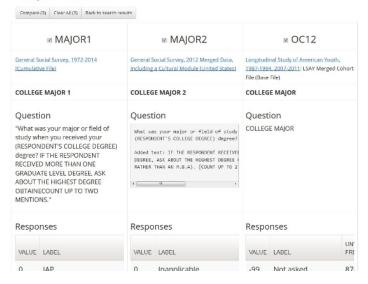


Figure 10: illustration: ICPSR Compare Variables

ICPSR: Study Page and Data



Figure 11: illustration: ICPSR Study Page and Data

ICPSR: Reading About Data

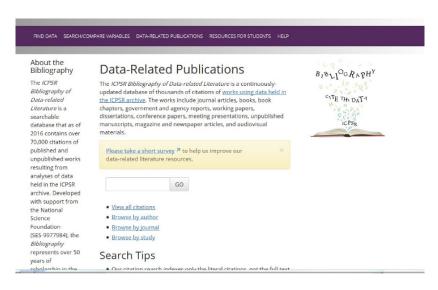


Figure 12: illustration: ICPSR Reading About Data

ICPSR: Publications linked to Data

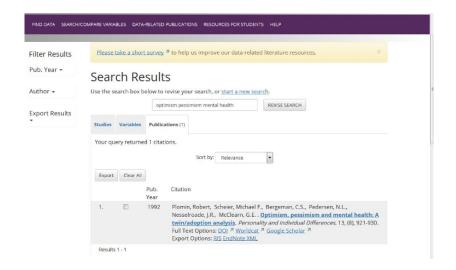


Figure 13: illustration: ICPSR Publications linked to Data

ICPSR: Publications Linked to Data



Figure 14: illustration: ICPSR Publications Linked to Data

Data Sources

- ► ICPSR: http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/
- UCLA Library Data Archive Catalog: https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/ssda_ucla
- ► Government Sites, Census Data: https://www.census.gov/
- ► IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series): https://www.ipums.org/
- ▶ Public Policy Institute of CA: www.ppic.org
- ▶ NBER (National Bureau of Economic Research): http://www.nber.org/data/
- CDC/NCHS (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/surveys.htm
- Pew Research Center: http://www.pewresearch.org/
- Data.gov: https://www.data.gov/

Data Management Plans

- What is a Data Management Plans
- Why do I need this?
- ▶ What tools are available to help?

What is a Data Management Plan?

A data management plan is a document that describes what you will do with your data *during* your research and *after* you complete your research.

Why do you need this?

- Funding Agencies
- Publishing https://dataden.library.ucla.edu/jspui/ ORCID:https://orcid.org/
- Sharing and Archiving Data
- Regardless of the requirements, good data management is an essential skill for researchers.

Getting help

- Data Archive
- ► ICPSR

Questions



Figure 15: illustration: Questions

Problems?

The Data Archive is here to help

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Tim Dennis, Director of the Data Archive Jamie Jamison, Archive Staff