Using Data in Research

Library Data Archive Fall Quarter 2017

PP290 Public Policy Fall 2017

Today's Topics

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

UCLA Library 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

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Data Archive: Our services

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

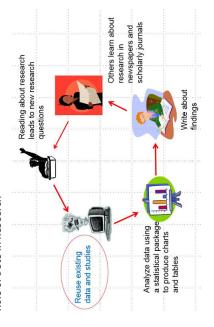






• Host events and lectures: Data Archive News and Upcoming Events

Role of Data in Research



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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 and Defining Your Research

- General to specific: broad to narrow
 Names of investigators, names of studies
 Studies described in literature, news and websites
- Population Gender, Race, & Units of age, etc. ethnicity, analysis analysis etc.

 Context What is your hypothesis? What will the data tell you? How will you interpret it?

 Variables in the What variables do you need to answer your dataset research question? Government Political Other - school units boundaries districts, etc. Over time Historical Current Geography Physical areas Time period

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Questionnaires and Codebooks

How do I know this study useful?

Studies with Raw Data

- Raw data are not eye-readable To decipher data you will use $\bar{\bf Q}uestionnaires$ and Codebooks

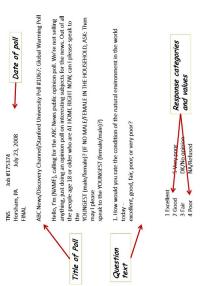
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What is a Questionnaire?

- 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: ABC New Poll



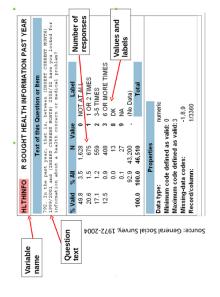
What is a Codebook?

- An overview of the study or dataset
 Variable names and descriptions
 Column locations (mostly this is for raw data)

May also include:

- Test of questions if the data comes from a survey
 Example of the Questionnaire
 Detail on who responded to the survey

Codebook: General Social Survey



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Codebook and Raw Data



ICPSR Data Site

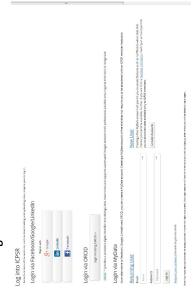
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research http://www.icpsr.umich.edu



ICPSR: Find Data



ICPSR: Register to Access Data



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ICPSR: Search by Topics

Browse by Topic

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ICPSR: Search for and Compare Variables



ICPSR: Compare Variables

Compare Variables

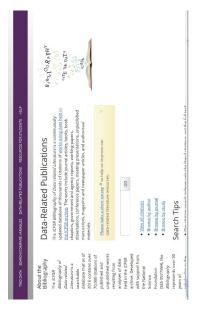
™ MAJOR1	™ MAJOR2	≥ OC12
General Social Survey, 1972-2014 Kumulistiva Filei	Gerental Social Survey, 2012 Merged Data, Including a Cultural Mediule Hinted States!	Longitudinal Study of American Youth, 1987-1984, 2007-2011; LSAY Merged Cohort File (Bose File)
COLLEGE MAJOR 1	COLLEGE MAJOR 2	COLLEGE MAJOR
Question	Question	Question
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Responses	Responses	Responses
WLUE LABEL	WALUE LABEL	WALUE LABEL LA
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ICPSR: Study Page and Data

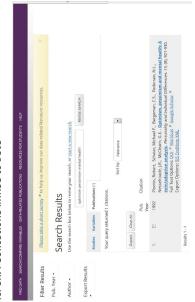


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ICPSR: Reading About Data



ICPSR: Publications linked to Data



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ICPSR: Publications Linked to Data



Pew Research Center

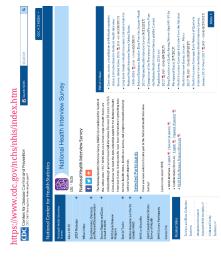


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Roper Center: Articles, Tables and Access to Data



National Center for Health Statistics



PUMS: Integrated Health Interview Series



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National Bureau of Economic Research



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Data from U.S. Census Bureau





Data Sources

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

 UCLA Library Data Archive Catalog.

 https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/ssda_ucla

 koper Center for Public Opinion Research: https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/
 Government Sites, Census Data: https://www.census.gov/
 PUMS (Innegrated Public Use Microdata Series): https://www.ipums.org/
 Public Policy Institute of CA: www.ppic.org

 NBER (National Bureau of Economic Research): https://www.nber.org/data/
 CDC/MCHS (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/

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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.

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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 with Data Management Plans • Data Archive • ICPSR

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Questions?



Problems?

The Data Archive is here to help 1120-H Rolfe ucla-data-archive@googlegroups.com 310-825-0716

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