

Video 5: Evaluating and Citing Data

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Transcript

00:00 Hello everyone,
00:01 welcome to our final video of the series.
00:04 In this video, I'm going to share a few questions
00:07 that can help us think more critically
00:08 about the data we intend to use,
00:10 as well as discuss some best practices for citing data.
00:14 Once you've identified a data set,
00:16 one of the first questions you can ask,
00:18 is does the data come from an authoritative source?
00:21 Although data and information reflect the credibility
00:24 and expertise of their producers and creators,
00:27 answering this question is often challenging
00:30 because authority is constructed and contextual.
00:33 Authority is constructed because
00:34 disciplines and communities recognize and promote
00:37 the voices of different types of creators.
00:40 Consider whether or not you're using a source
00:42 that reflects your discipline's perspectives on authority.
00:46 Authority is also contextual because
00:48 your specific data or information need
00:50 can inform the level of authority required.
00:53 When trying to determine whether your data comes
00:56 from an authoritative source,
00:58 ask yourself if your data need requires you to seek out
01:01 sources, creators, and producers
01:03 that may or may not be considered
01:05 standard authorities within a particular discipline.
01:09 Next, you can ask, does the data fit your needs?
01:13 If the data doesn't help you investigate
01:15 your research question,
01:16 you may need to find another data set.
01:18 Also, as we discussed in Video 1,
01:21 consider whether or not the data
01:22 reflects your intended unit of observation
01:25 and unit of analysis.
01:27 When reviewing the data set
01:29 and the associated documentation, consider,
01:32 how was the data collected?
01:34 Does the producer or creator
01:35 detail their methodology, methods,
01:37 and data collection mechanisms?
01:39 If so, are these methods and mechanisms
01:42 valid and reliable?

01:44 One final question you can ask,
01:46 is does the documentation or codebook
01:48 define all variables?
01:50 When working with raw data,
01:52 the information contained in these types of resources
01:55 is vital for understanding the data.
01:58 Also consider whether or not you are left with
02:00 questions about the data.
02:02 If you are, how would you go about
02:04 answering these questions?
02:06 Do you need to answer these questions
02:08 to effectively use this data?
02:10 When using data, it is also important
02:12 to provide a citation to acknowledge the creator
02:15 and direct others to the data you used.
02:18 Citations for data sets usually include
02:20 the same components as citations
02:22 to other types of sources,
02:24 such as the creator, the title, the year,
02:27 the publisher or the archive and repository
02:29 where the data set is held,
02:31 the version, as well as access information.
02:34 Many citation styles or journals
02:36 offer guidelines on citing data sets.
02:38 For example, the APA
02:40 suggests that citations include
02:42 the author's name, the year,
02:45 the title and the version number,
02:46 a description of the form,
02:48 as well as the retrieval information.

[Author Last Name, Author First Initial. (Year). *Title of data set* (Version number) [Description of form].
Retrieved or Available from <http://>]

02:50 Some platforms or repositories,
02:53 like IPUMS-NHGIS from Video 4,
02:56 even provide suggested citations.

[Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical
Geographic Information System: Version 13.0 [Database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 2018.
<http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V13.0>]

02:58 If you have additional questions about citing data,
03:01 consider visiting the Library's "Citing Sources" guide.

[University of Idaho Library – Citing Sources Guide: <https://libguides.uidaho.edu/citing>]

03:04 This guide includes information on a variety of styles
03:08 and shares details on how to access the print
03:10 and online style guides.
03:12 Thank you for watching this video series.

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03:14 Please reach out to me if you have any questions

03:17 about finding, evaluating, or citing data.