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### OxIS variable name & missing value conventions

I tried to standardize the variable names across all waves of OxIS. While I am sure that there are lurking exceptions, in general variable names follow these conventions.

All variable names contain only lower case letters and underscores.

Variable names begin with characters that indicate their content. This means that variables with similar content sort together. The following prefixes are used across all waves.

The following three prefixes are the most important:

u_	User questionnaire variable
e_	Ex-user questionnaire variable
n_	Non-user questionnaire variable

There are a number of other prefixes:

gol	General questionnaire; items ask “Where would you go first for information...”
imp	General questionnaire; items ask “...how important is...?” certain media for entertainment or information
rel	General questionnaire; items ask “How reliable and accurate would you rate information in...”
ag	General questionnaire; items ask for agreement with a statement
act	General questionnaire; items ask about “Participation in...” activities.
fr	All questionnaires; items ask how frequently respondent does certain activities.
p_	All questionnaires; items ask about politics
mob	All questionnaires; items ask about mobile phone use
hh	All questionnaires; items ask about technologies that are available in a household
cs_	User questionnaire; items ask “Would you use your smart phone or computer...”
bl_	General questionnaire; items ask about blocking someone on social media
s_	User questionnaire; an item that asks about search
pn_	User questionnaire; items ask “When looking for political information how often do you go to...”
loc	All questionnaires; items ask about local government services
gov	All questionnaires; items ask about national government services
u_fr	User questionnaire; items asking about how often a respondent does certain activities.
u_sns	User questionnaire; items asking about use of social media
u_ler	User questionnaire; items asking about training
u_con	User questionnaire; items asking if the respondent is concerned about certain privacy issues
u_act	User questionnaire; items asking if the respondent has taken certain privacy-related actions. (Yes, I know it is similar to the “act” item, above.)

## Missing values

Missing value codes are standardized across all waves.

.l	legitimate skip
.r	refused
.d	don't know
.n	not applicable
.u	unclassified (only for acorn variables)
.o	other (only 2009 for qd14 and qe03b)
.a	not answered (only 2009 for qs01a thru qs01f, qd31)
.s	not stated (used in 2003 and 2005 datasets)
.e	none (only used in 2003, declared missing in questionnaire and raw dataset)
.p	not possible on phone (only qh13* in 2009, qh11* in 2011, qh12* in 2013)

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