where do i get data?

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outline

where?

census data

good practices

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no need for data collection

- it used to be that you had to collect data yourself
- some people still do it
- yet, almost always the data that you need was already collected
- it is not easy to collect/produce data
○ it is a separate degree or at least a separate class on how to do it

data data everywhere

- data are everywhere
- whatever you study, you can get data for it
- but wait, where actually is it?

find data–the fast way

- email me or GA
  - again, data questions are perfectly fine
  - yet, no one asks them !
- google
  - requires a little skill in knowing what to google

eg googling local educ data

- http://nces.ed.gov
- NJ educ data, should be easier to use, but i do not have experience with it http://www.state.nj.us/education/data/
- same for NY http://data.nysed.gov/
- and PA http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/dropouts/7396

- and there is stuff for Philly:; this should be relatively easy

  to use http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/o/open-data-initiative

  https://webapps.philasd.org/school_profile

  http://technical.ly/philly/2014/07/15/salary-data-school-district

find data–the slow (classic) way: a list

- there are many excellent datasets ! let's go over them
- i posted them in data_sources.csv
- and many other lists like this; eg:

  http://journalistsresource.org/tip-sheets/research/

  websites-u-s-federal-government-administrative-datasets

data_sources.csv

- there are many datasets...
- some are international (for ipsd people)
- some are lower-level: eg person level

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socialexplorer

- i like http://socialexplorer.com
  - (need to access it on campus to get it free)

census website

- actually now can have a similar interface on census website
- `http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml`
- and click geographies on the right
- then at the top can search in box 'topic or table name'
○ say for 'income'

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cite it!

- always cite your data
○ at least full name and
  specific url [not eg census.gov]
- i do not care about the format; eg
○ cite at the end among regular references
○ cite in text
○ have an appendix
○ cite in footnote

be careful about confidential data!

- anything that can be used to identify a person
○ ssn, dob, name, any ID #, etc
- is a red flag!
- be extremely careful!
- just de-identify:
○ either drop sensitive vars
○ or create 2 files with your own new ID
○ one with sensitive info and ID, and keep it secure
○ the other with other info that you can easily carry around

be careful about confidential data!

- be very careful–almost nothing is "secure" these days
- best stay away from sensitive data, or work with
- someone who knows what she is doing!
- very easy to make mistake and get into big trouble
- tell a story about what happened to a prof
- who is my wife's boss...
- very experienced and still got in trouble!