Data in the Spotlight: Qualitative and Mixed Methods

Maureen Haaker
UK Data Service

26 October 2020
Overview

- What is the UK Data Service?
- Examples: qualitative & mixed data
- Finding and accessing data
- Tips, resources and help
- Questions?
What is the UK Data Service?

- A comprehensive resource funded by the ESRC
- A single point of access to a wide range of secondary social science data
- Support, training and guidance
Who is it for?

- Academic researchers and students
- Government analysts
- Charities and foundations
- Business consultants
- Independent research centres
- Think tanks

ukdataservice.ac.uk
Types of data collections

• Survey microdata
  • Cross-sectional
  • Panel / Longitudinal

• Aggregate statistics
  • International macrodata

• Census data
  • Aggregate data for 1971 -2011
  • Microdata for 1991, 2001 and 2011

• Qualitative and mixed methods data
Sources of data

• Official agencies – mainly central government
• International statistical time series
• Research institutions
• Individual academics - research grants
• Market research agencies
• Public records/historical sources
Key data – qualitative/mixed

UK Data Service

About us  Get data  Use data  Manage data  Deposit data  News and events

Home > Get data > Key data > Qualitative and mixed methods data

Key data
Browse our most popular datasets, by data type.

UK surveys  Cross-national surveys  Longitudinal studies  International macrodata
Census data  Business microdata  Qualitative / mixed methods  Administrative data

Qualitative data is non-numeric information, such as in-depth interview transcripts, diaries, anthropological field notes, answers to open-ended survey questions, audio visual recordings and images. Mixed methods approaches combine qualitative data with numeric data.

- Data Catalogue of qualitative or mixed methods data
- Case studies relating to qualitative or mixed methods data

Affluent Worker in the Class Structure
The ‘Affluent Worker’ project was undertaken to test empirically the thesis of working class embourgeoisement. The research studied the attitudes and behaviour of high wage earners in three mass or continuous flow companies.
http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8271-1

Family Life and Work Experience Before 1918
This study comprised 537 life story interviews which were recorded in the 1970s with a cross-national sample of people born before 1918 in the UK. These interviews formed

The UK Data Service is closed from Tuesday 24 December 2019 and will re-open on Thursday 2 January 2020. Online services will run unattended during this period. Season’s greetings to all our users.

About the UK Data Service

See data from all over the world

Data types
Census data  International household surveys  Longitudinal surveys  Qualitative / mixed methods

UK Data Service
Key data – qualitative and mixed

- Quality and capacity in inclusive research with people with learning disabilities (SN851891)
- Inter/generational dynamics (SN851890)
- Chronic Illness and Online Networking: expectations, assumptions, and everyday realities (SN851964)
- Coalitional presidentialism in comparative perspective: minority executives in multiparty systems (SN852003)
- Family Life and Work Experience Before 1918 (SN2000)
The Last Refuge (SN4750)

- Peter Townsend conducted a major investigation of long-stay institutional care for old people in Britain in the late 1950s.
- In-depth interviews with 67 local authority chief welfare officers and with serving staff and residents of 173 institutions.
- Photographs and field notes about the condition of the buildings and the facilities were created.
- Diaries were also kept by a number of residents and staff.

http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=4750&type=Data%20catalogue
‘The Last Refuge’ photographs
‘The Last Refuge’ - impact

- Pioneering use of qualitative data on old age, retirement, isolation, services, etc.
- Major policy implications by questioning whether long-stay institutions for the elderly were still needed.
- Also recommended improvements that institutions could adopt.
School Leavers Study (SN4876)

Original data – collected c. 1978
Ray Pahl

Teachers at a comprehensive school on the Isle of Sheppey were asked to set a particular essay to those pupils who were students in English lessons about ten days before they were due to leave school. The students were asked to imagine that they were nearing the end of their life, and that something had made them think back to the time when they left school. They were then asked to write an imaginary account of their life over the next 30 or 40 years.

http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=4867&type=Data%20catalogue
Living and Working on Sheppey

What Sheppey’s young people said in 1978
141 essays (89 boys and 52 girls)

Mundane & grounded jobs.
Gradual career progression.
Periods of unemployment.

• “It was hard finding a job, I failed a few chances, but eventually got what I wanted locally, a craft apprenticeship” (Essay no.27, male)

• “I was on the dole for six months after leaving school, until I got a job in a garage” (Essay no.42, male)

• “I longed for something exciting and challenging. But yet again I had to settle for second best. I began working in a large clothes factory” (Essay no.104, female)
Living and Working on Sheppey

What Sheppey’s young people said about work in 2010
110 essays (55 boys and 55 girls)

Well-paid, instantaneous jobs.
Choice but uncertainty.
Influence of celebrity culture.

- “I was 20 now living the dream I had a amazing band...I had toured the world 3 times sold 4 million records” (Essay no.30, male)

- “I arrive at my 3-bedroom luxury villa; I land my helicopter on my own heli-pad and walk inside. I grab my keys and jump in my Bentley Continental GTS.” (Essay no.40, male)

- “In my future I want to become either: a dance teacher, hairdresser, or a Professional Show Jumper/horse rider. If I do become a dancer my dream would be to dance for Beyoncé or someone really famous” (Essay no.61, female)
National Child Development Survey

• Follows lives of 17,000 people born in one week of 1958.

• Collects information on physical and educational development, economic circumstances, employment, family life, health behaviour, wellbeing, social participation and attitudes.
In 1969, aged 11, children wrote essays about how they imagined their life would be like at age 25. Over 500 essays. Now possible to match with data on how their lives actually turned out...at 25, 45, and 55.
Data Catalogue – conducting a search

https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/get-data
QualiBank

Search and browse qualitative surveys, interviews and open-ended questions.

Search our qualitative data and related resources

Discover > QualiBank
Search and browse qualitative surveys, interviews and open-ended questions.

Report: 1st Armoured Division Morale Report for period 1 May - 30 Sep 47
SN7465 Morale and Home Intelligence Reports, 1941-1949

... at release was joyfully received by those affected. Pre-release and resettlement courses are popular. 12. Health On the whole has very good. Amongst IPs in PALESTINE there have been 8 cases of Infantile Paralysis (2 fatal), 4 cases of Typhoid (1 fatal) and a small number...

Access this collection from DI

Report: Morale Report for the week of March 21 - March 27 1943
SN7465 Morale and Home Intelligence Reports, 1941-1949

... at the amount of rheumatic fever he has seen as well as a few cases of coronary thrombosis. There is mention made of the death of a Lieutenant from Typhoid fever. Under the general category of health, there is specific mention of the necessity for dental care. (File N...
Interview with Mrs. Omison

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

R: 149 Lee Gate, Hanwood, Bolton.
I: And your marital status? You're a widow, are you?
R: Yes.
R: Oh yes, that was done. The Maypole dances.
I: Where did they have the Maypole?
R: Well of course I remember St. Osyth Priory - I lived just inside St. Osyth then you see, my father and mother moved from Angers Green to - I told you about the barracks - we moved there when I was - not more than about two I suppose.
I: And you lived on there for quite a while didn't you?
R: I lived there till I got married. Yes.
I: Why did they make that move?
R: Well, of course they moved - lived in a house at Angers Green, I don't know who that belonged to but then of course as these barrack cottages became vacant I mean the farmer usually put his men in them you see. That was why my father moved 'cos -
I: It wasn't because he changed his employer?
R: Oh no, the house went with the job you see.
I: And at St. Osyth in Priory they used to have a Mayday didn't they?
R: Oh yes. Well they had - a lot of big do's there when I was a kid, I mean, I belonged to the Sunday school, I used to have all their treats there - their summer treats you know. And of course the woman then who had it - was a very rich woman you see those days, I mean they had about seventeen gardeners and - and seventeen or eighteen indoor staff.

RELATED RESOURCES

Related external resources
- XML TEI Transcript
- XML QuDEx metadata

Related audio
- Audio extract from Interview with Mr. Keble

Related images
- Image relating to the Edwardians
I: Did he ever look after you while your mother went out?

R: No, no. My mother never had a chance to go out. If there was anything on at the school and we took part in it, we never could go.
Data access

- Web access to data and metadata.

- Data are freely available to anyone who registers with the UK Data Service (dependent on licence).

- Data supplied in a variety of formats
  - statistical package formats (e.g. SPSS, Stata)
  - databases and spreadsheets
  - word processed documents, PDF documents etc.
Data access

• If you are at a UK University, you can use your own institutional username and password to log in and register with the UK Data Service.

• If you are not at a UK University you will have to apply for a UK Data Archive username and password.
Accessing data - registration

• Click on the ‘login’ link on the UK Data Service homepage
• Click on ‘login to the UK Data Service’
• Find your University (or UK Data Archive) in the list of institutions and proceed to the login page
• Enter your login details
• Complete the registration form as a new user
• Accept the End User Licence
• Use the download/order link for the dataset you wish to access and create a project description
• Download the data in your chosen format
How to download data

http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/get-data/how-to-access/downloadorder.aspx

To download/order data:

1. locate the data collection you require using Discover
2. click the 'Download/Order' option for the data collection required
3. register a new use of the data, or choose from any previously registered usages
4. enter a short summary describing your intended use of the data
5. click 'Add datasets' and the selected data collection will be added to your usage
6. agree any special conditions associated with the selected datasets. These will appear in the 'Status' column
7. click 'Download' and accept the EUL, reminder
8. select the download format required and the download will begin. Note that where the format option is 'Other', format guidance is usually given within the zip file name, for example, SAS

Some data collections are not available for immediate download, and you will need to order the data. To do this, check the 'Other media' box and follow the online instructions.

View our video tutorial on how to download UK survey data.
Useful tips - Advice for new users

We have webpages for new users that provide information on

- how to find data with our search application – Data Catalogue
- how to register and access data
- what kinds of data we hold
- how you can get in touch

http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/help/new-user.aspx
Useful resources and help

• Video tutorials
  • [http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data/tutorials.aspx](http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data/tutorials.aspx)
Other resources

• Workshops and user meetings (check our news and events pages).
• Provide advice on research data management planning and preservation.
• Have you used our data in a publication or in the classroom? Please tell us about it. We will add your bibliographic citation to Discover and we can help to promote and demonstrate the impact of your research or teaching by featuring you in a Case Study.
• Got a query? See our help pages and FAQs.
Upcoming events

Webinars
- 5 Nov, 3-4pm: Data in the Spotlight: International and Time Series Databanks
- 11 Nov, 3-4pm: Data for Good: The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector in Britain
- 12 Nov 3-4pm: Introduction to the UK Data Services
- 19 Nov, 3-4pm: Finding and Accessing Data
- 26 Nov, 3-4pm: Getting Started with Secondary Analysis
- 3 Dec, 3-4pm: Data Management Basics
- 10 Dec, 3-4pm: Depositing your data with ReShare

Workshops and Conferences
- 18 Nov: Geographical Data Visualisation of UK Census Data
- 1-16 Dec: Online tools for accessing and analysing census data from the UK Data Service: Census aggregate data, flow data and microdata
- 8 Dec: Crime Surveys User Conference 2020
Get connected

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https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=UKdataservice

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https://www.facebook.com/UKDataService

https://www.youtube.com/user/UKDATASERVICE

***Powerpoint slides will be available on our website in due course and you can catch up on the recording on our Youtube channel. Check out our Twitter for more updates.***
Questions

UK Data Service
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester
Essex CO4 3SQ
Advice for new users
http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/help/new-user.aspx
FAQs
http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/help/faq.aspx
Reusing qualitative data
http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data/secondary-analysis/reusing-qualitative-data.aspx

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