UK Data Service

UK Data Service essentials: Introduction, finding and accessing data

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Economic and Social Research Council

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Overview of the first part of the session

- The UK Data Service: who we are video
- What is the UK Data Service?
- Who is it for?
- How can we help you?
- What types of data do we hold?
- What are some of the tools available?
- Questions.

What is the UK Data Service?

- The UK Data Service is the principal repository for economic, population, and social research data in the UK

- We are the largest trusted digital archive of its kind, storing long-term access to high-quality Social Science data since 1967

- Funded by the UKRI and ESRC.

Cont…What is the UK Data Service?

- We provide researchers across academia, government, and policy organisations with high-quality data and resources to generate impactful insights.

- Among these resources there is: research training, policy advising and the building of protocols that set the standard the data services sector.

- We have a data impact blog showcasing the impact of our research.

Quick Facts:



Who is it for?

- Academic researchers and students.
- Government analysts.
- Charities and foundations.
- Independent research centres and think tanks.
- Business consultants and data analysts.
- Personal researchers.

How could the UK Data Service help you?

- Wide range of datasets on a wide range of topics.
- Tools to access different datasets.
- Training and data specific events held throughout the year.
- Support throughout your whole project, from initial application to project end.
- Access to our own TRE - SecureLab access environment.

Sources of data

- National statistical authorities.
- UK government departments.
- Intergovernmental organisations.
- Research institutes.
- Individual researchers.



Office for National Statistics

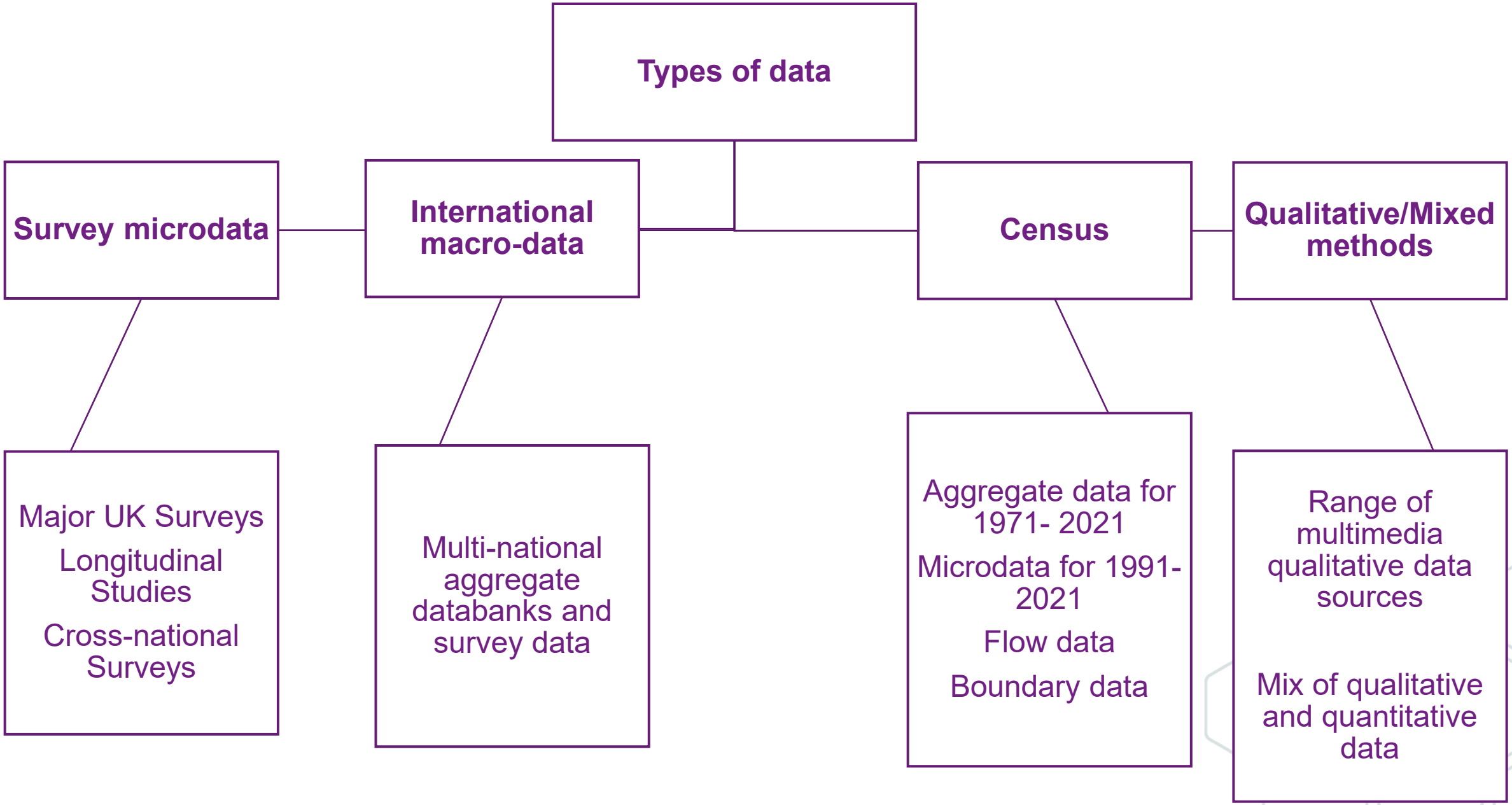
OECD

Department for Work & Pensions

Home Office

ReShare

iSER


Types of data
Survey microdata
International macro-data
Census
Qualitative/Mixed methods
Major UK Surveys
Longitudinal Studies
Cross-national Surveys
Multi-national aggregate databanks and survey data
Aggregate data for 1971- 2021
Microdata for 1991-2021
Flow data
Boundary data
Range of multimedia qualitative data sources
Mix of qualitative and quantitative data

Survey Microdata

Survey Microdata			
Types of datasets	Type of data	Samples Available	Examples
Major UK Surveys Cross-national Surveys Longitudinal Studies	Anonymised individual or household level data.	Large sample sizes Nationally representatives Flexible	Crime Survey for England and Wales (1982-) British Social Attitudes Survey (1983 -)

Cross-sectional dataset

- Data for a single point in time.
- Many UK surveys are repeated cross-sectional, **large, nationally representative**
- The same information asked each time.
- Can be used to track trends over time.

Longitudinal data: Panel and cohort data

- One key difference – it follows the **same individuals or households over time.**
- Change at individual level over time.
- Two main types – panel and cohort.

Key datasets

Dataset	Type	Focus	Sample size
Crime Survey for England and Wales (1982 - present)	Cross-sectional	Levels of crime & public attitudes to crime.	33,000 people approx.
British Social Attitudes Survey (1983 - present)	Cross-sectional	Public views on a range of topics such as work, equalities, welfare, health, and how the country is run.	17,000 people approx.
Understanding Society (1991 - present)	Longitudinal – Panel	Wellbeing of subjects in health, work, education, income, family, and social life in the UK.	40,000 households approx.
National Child Development Study (1958 - present)	Longitudinal – Cohort	Physical and educational development, economic circumstances, employment, social/family life and attitudes.	17,000 approx.

Cross-national surveys

- Allow comparisons across different countries through standardized comparative survey data.
- Large sample sizes.
- Flexible.
- International governmental organisation funded.

Examples:

- Young Lives: an International Study of Childhood Poverty.
- Young Lives: School Survey.
- European Values Study.
- European Working Conditions Survey.

International macrodata

International macrodata			
Types of datasets	Type of data	Samples Available	Examples
Aggregate or macro data such as World Bank, IMF	Time series data aggregated to country/region Predominantly indicators of national performance and development	Large sample sizes International governmental organisation funded	OECD Economic Outlook IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO)

*The topics include national accounts, industrial production, employment, trade, human development, etc.

International macrodata: Tools

- International Aggregate Data from the UK Data Service

   We recommend using Mozilla Firefox with this tool

- Hosts hundreds of economic and social datasets provided by the World Bank, OECD, International Monetary Fund, United Nations, and International Energy Agency.

- View by data provider.

- Extract the information you require.

- User guides and video tutorials available - Accessing, exploring and visualising international data.

Types of Census data:

- There are 4 kinds of census data available from the UKDS:

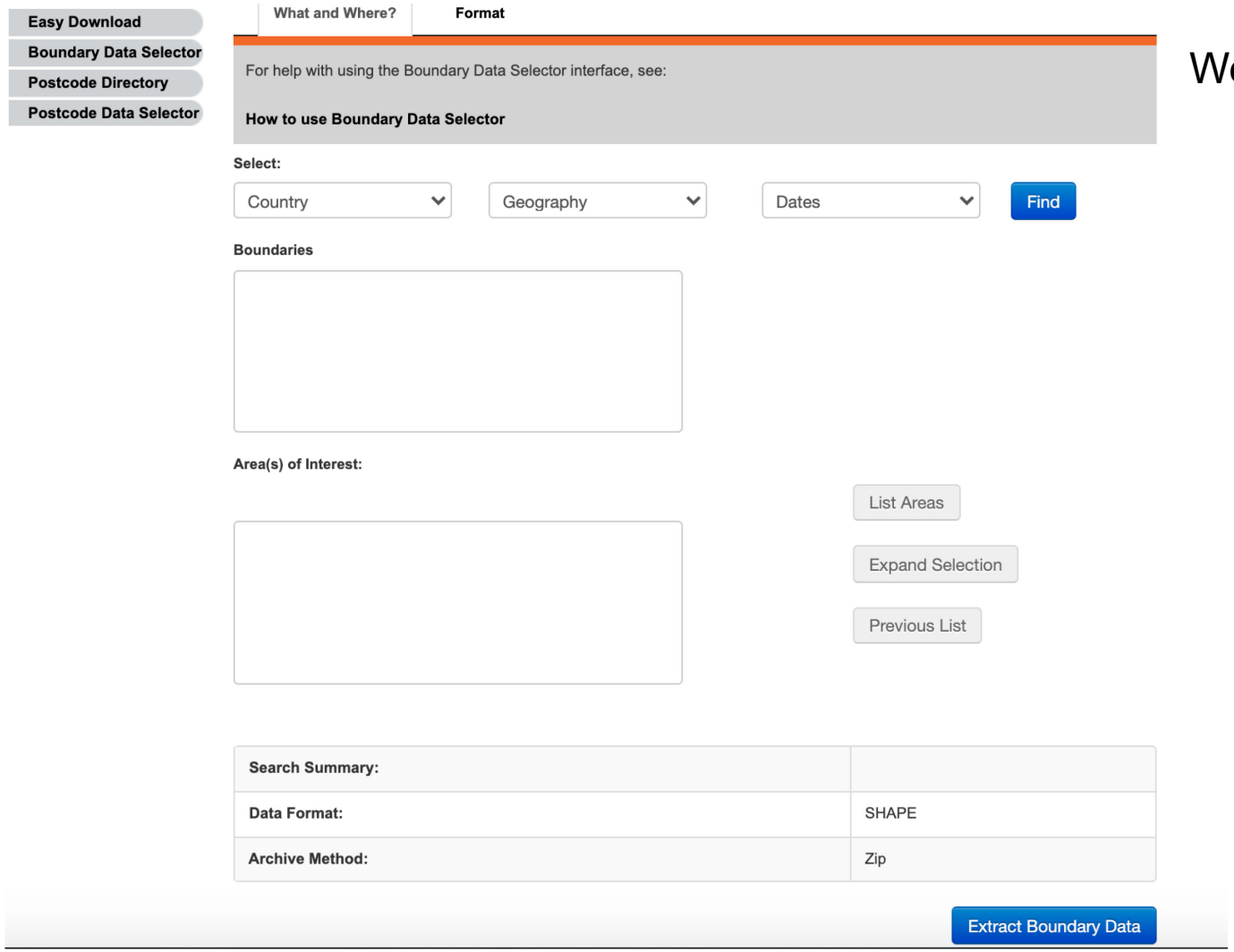
Type	Description	Available from
Aggregate	Provide counts, usually of individuals or households with particular characteristics for an area	2001 & 2011 (InFuse)
Boundary	Boundaries for each census in a range of Geographic Information System (GIS) formats.	from 1981 to 2021 (Boundary selector)
Flow	Records of the flows of people between places for each census	from 1981 to 2011 (WICID)
Microdata	Anonymised individual level records sampled from a single census	1961 to 2021 (individual datasets) 1851 to 1911 (I-CeM)

Census tools - InFuse



InFuse *We recommend using Mozilla Firefox with this tool*

Census tools: Boundary data



We recommend using Mozilla Firefox with this tool

Youtube Video:
How to download boundary data

Census flow data

- Flows of people between places – there is an origin and destination.
- Two main types: commuting and migration.
- Data available through the WICID tool.

We recommend using Mozilla Firefox with this tool 

Census microdata

- Anonymised individual level records.
- Flexible.
- Samples of 1% – 5%.
- Lots of topics.

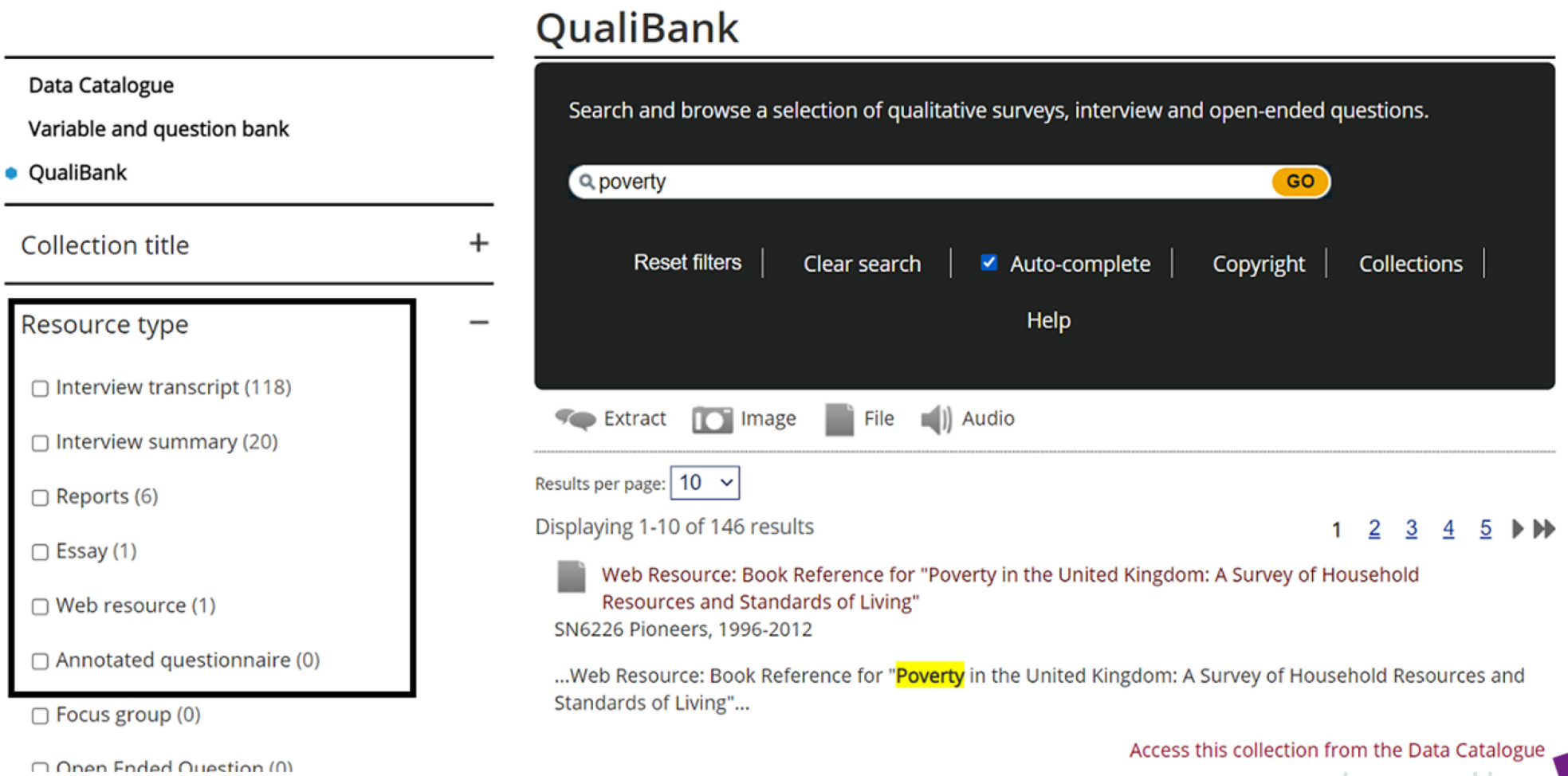


Image from Pexels.

Qualitative/Mixed methods

Types of datasets	Type of data	Samples Available	Examples
Qualitative focused datasets	Interview transcripts, diaries, anthropological field notes, audio-visual recordings, and images.	Varied	Look up QualiBank.

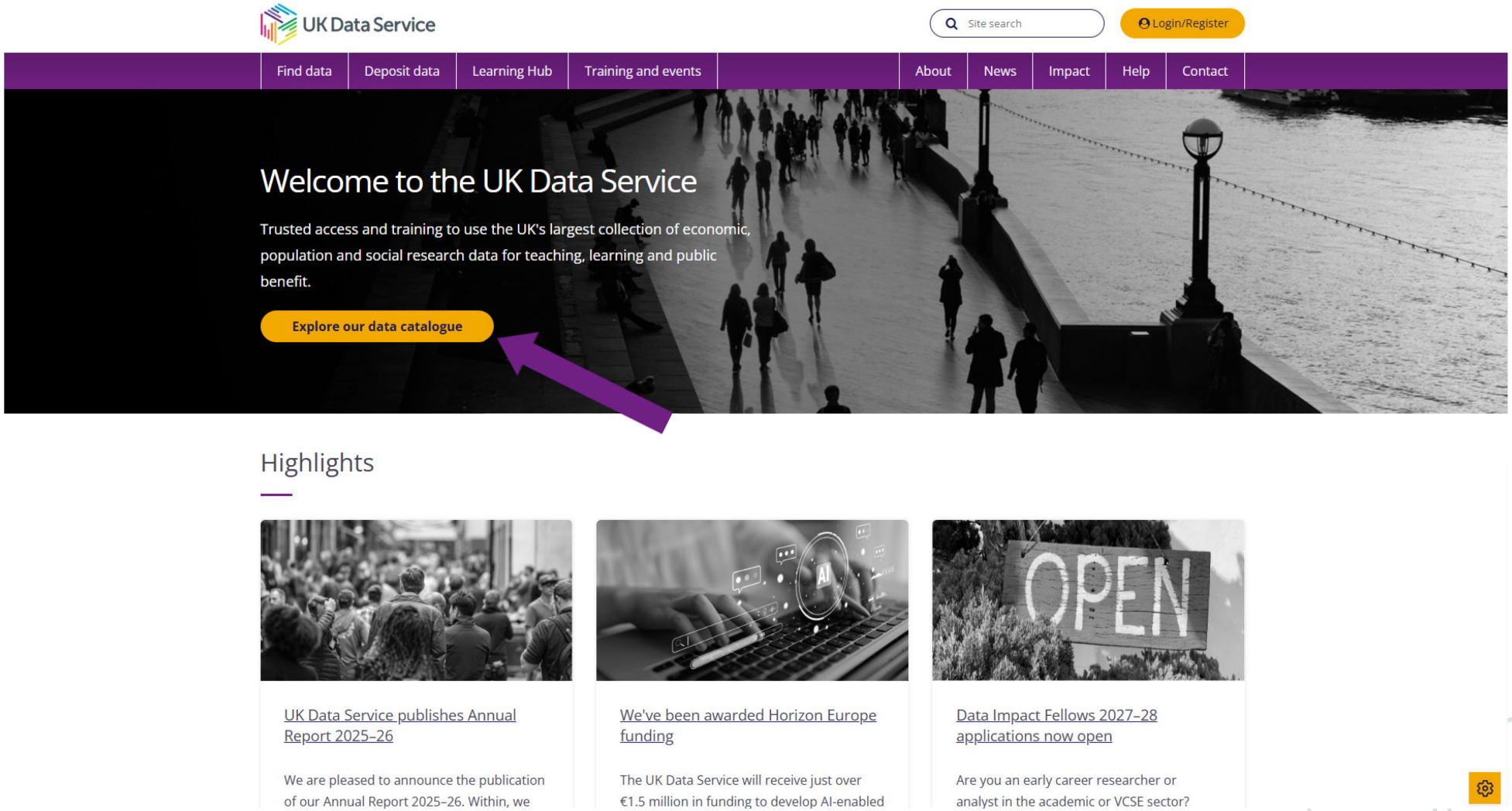
QualiBank


Data Catalogue
Variable and question bank
QualiBank
Collection title
Resource type
Interview transcript (118)
Interview summary (20)
Reports (6)
Essay (1)
Web resource (1)
Annotated questionnaire (0)
Focus group (0)
QualiBank
Search and browse a selection of qualitative surveys, interview and open-ended questions.
poverty
GO
Reset filters
Clear search
Auto-complete
Copyright
Collections
Help
Extract
Image
File
Audio
Results per page: 10
Displaying 1-10 of 146 results
1 2 3 4 5
Web Resource: Book Reference for "Poverty in the United Kingdom: A Survey of Household Resources and Standards of Living"
SN6226 Pioneers, 1996-2012
...Web Resource: Book Reference for "Poverty in the United Kingdom: A Survey of Household Resources and Standards of Living"...
Access this collection from the Data Catalogue

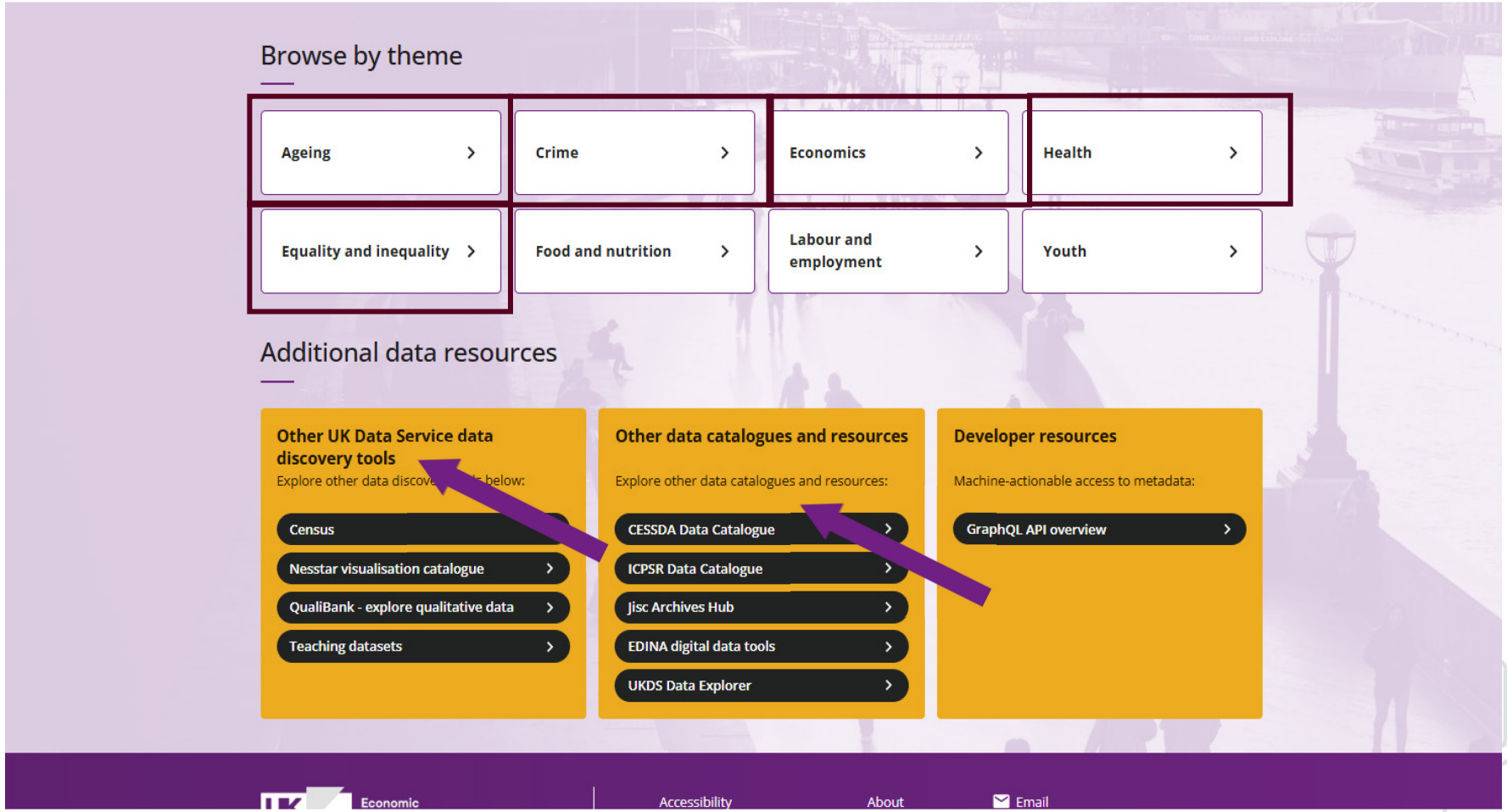
Overview of the second part of the session

- Finding data –exploring the catalogue.
- Registering to the UKDS.
- Accessing data – Different application types and tips.
- Other resources we hold.
- Questions.

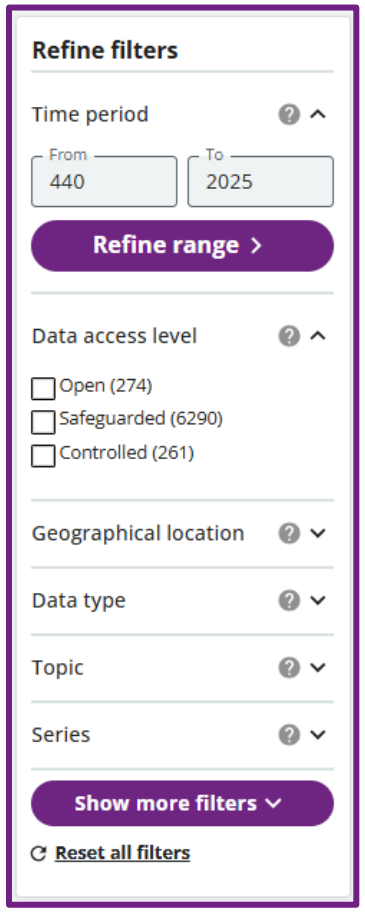
UK Data Service website

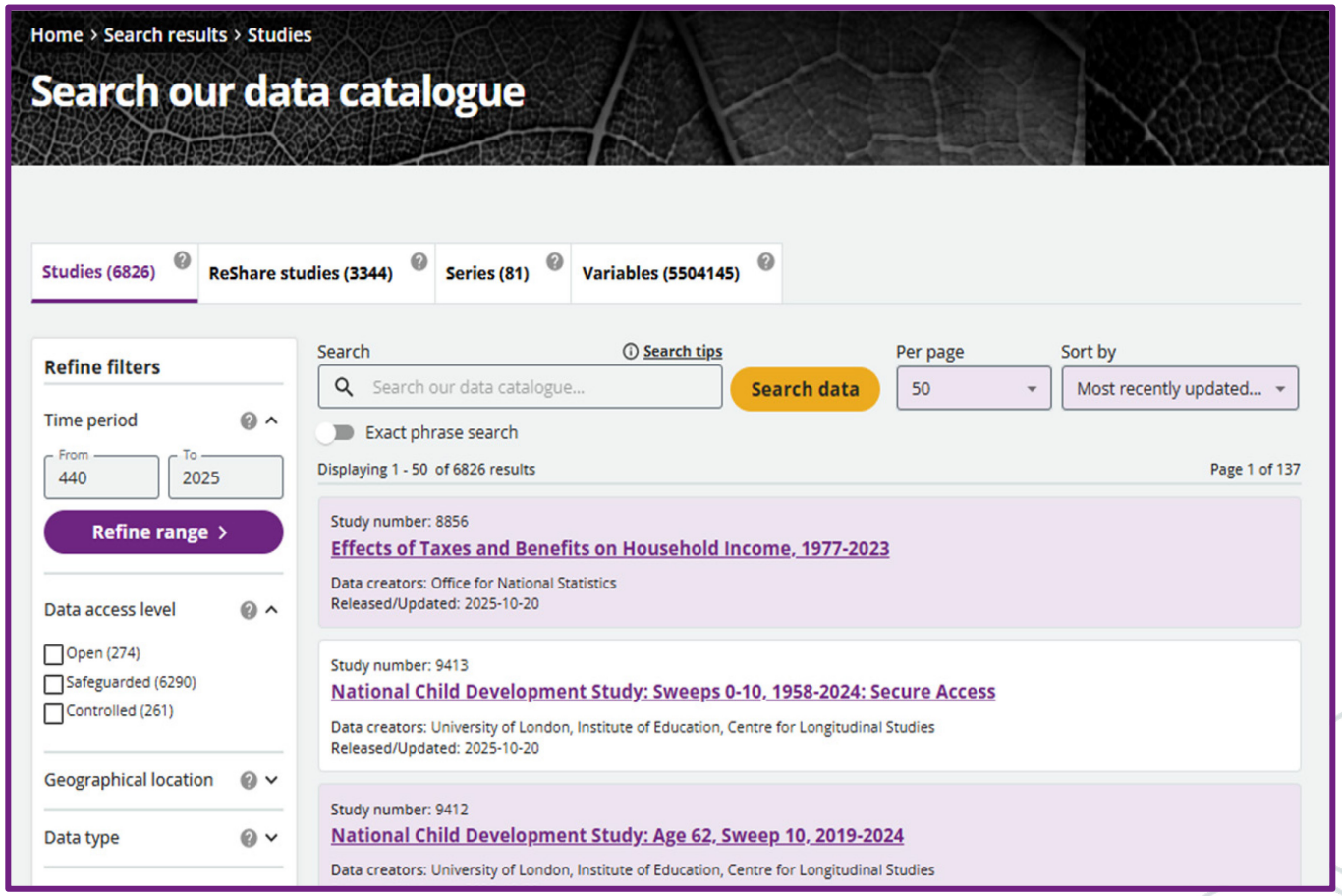


Catalogue search tool

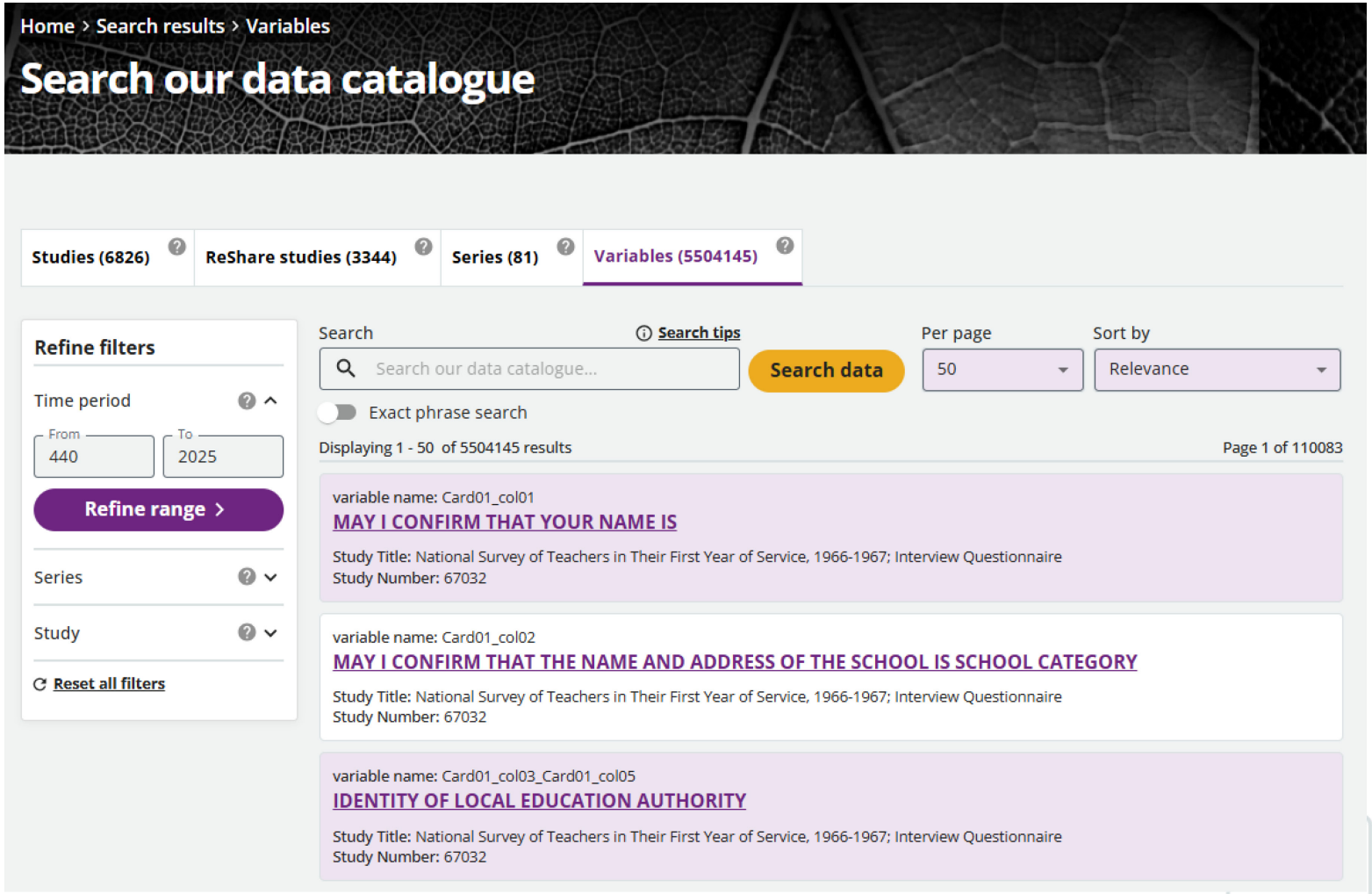


Finding Data: Catalogue search tool

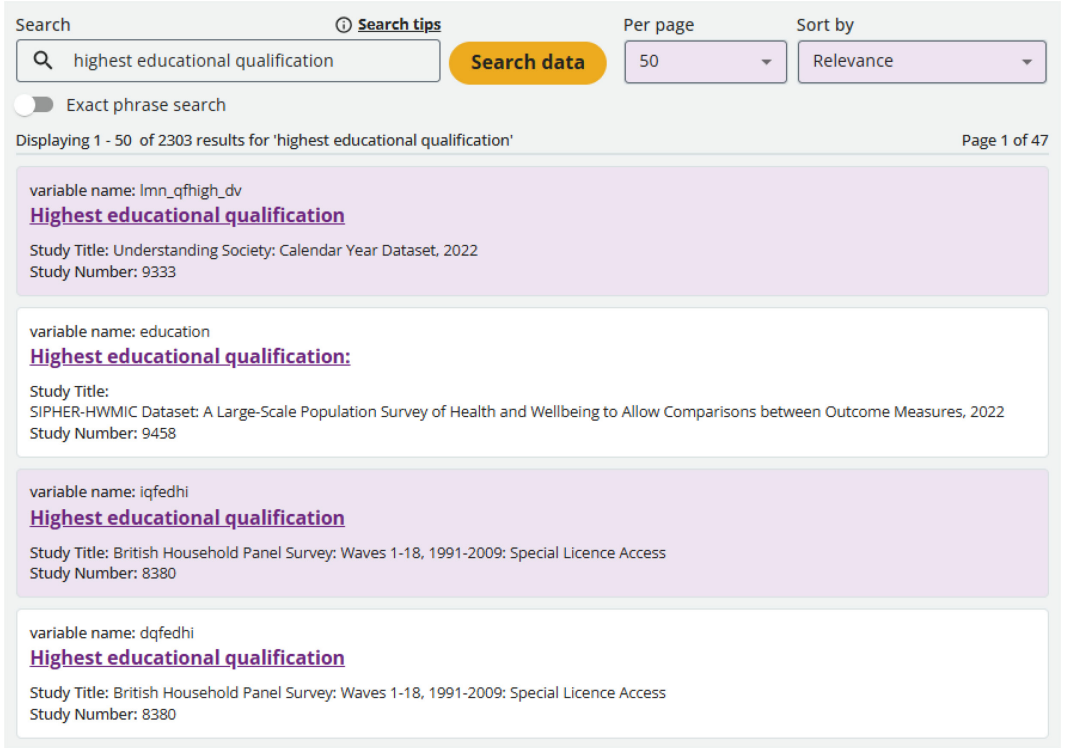


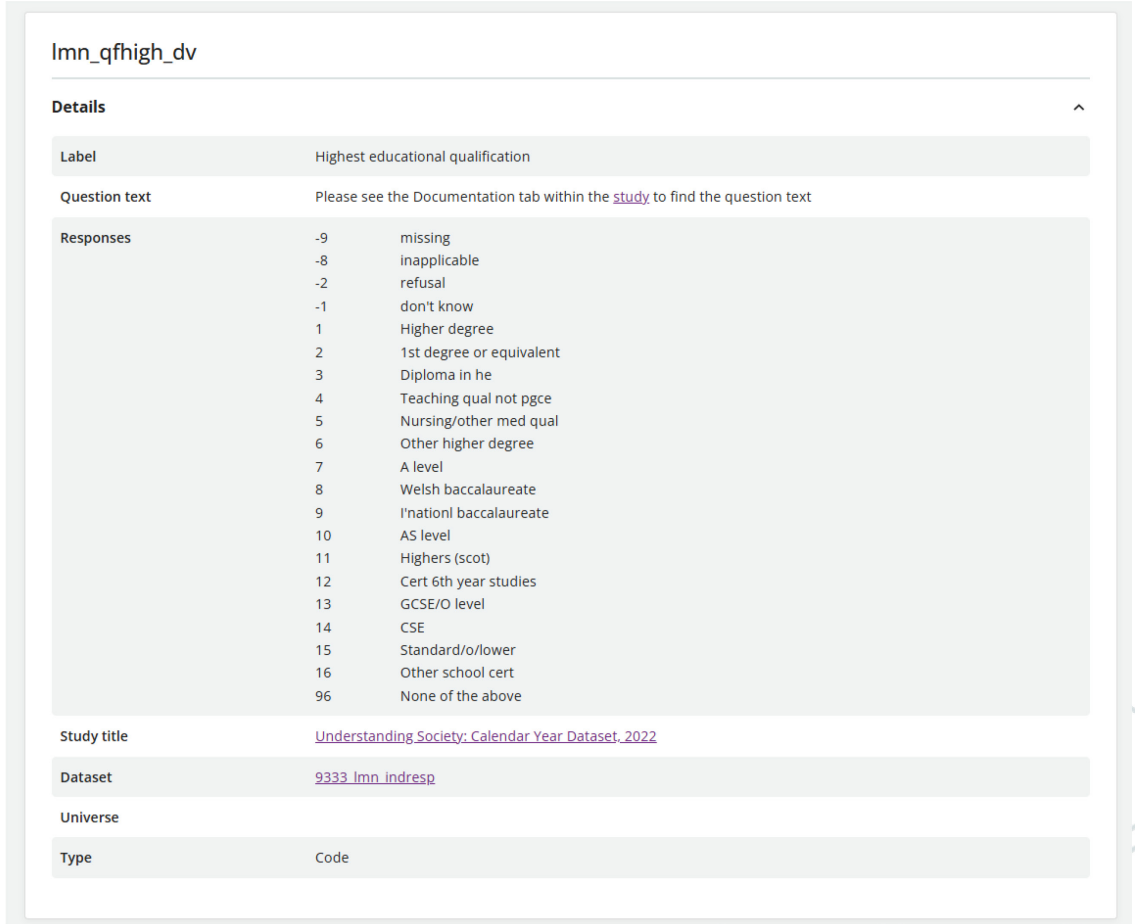


Finding Data: Variable search



Variable search: Example

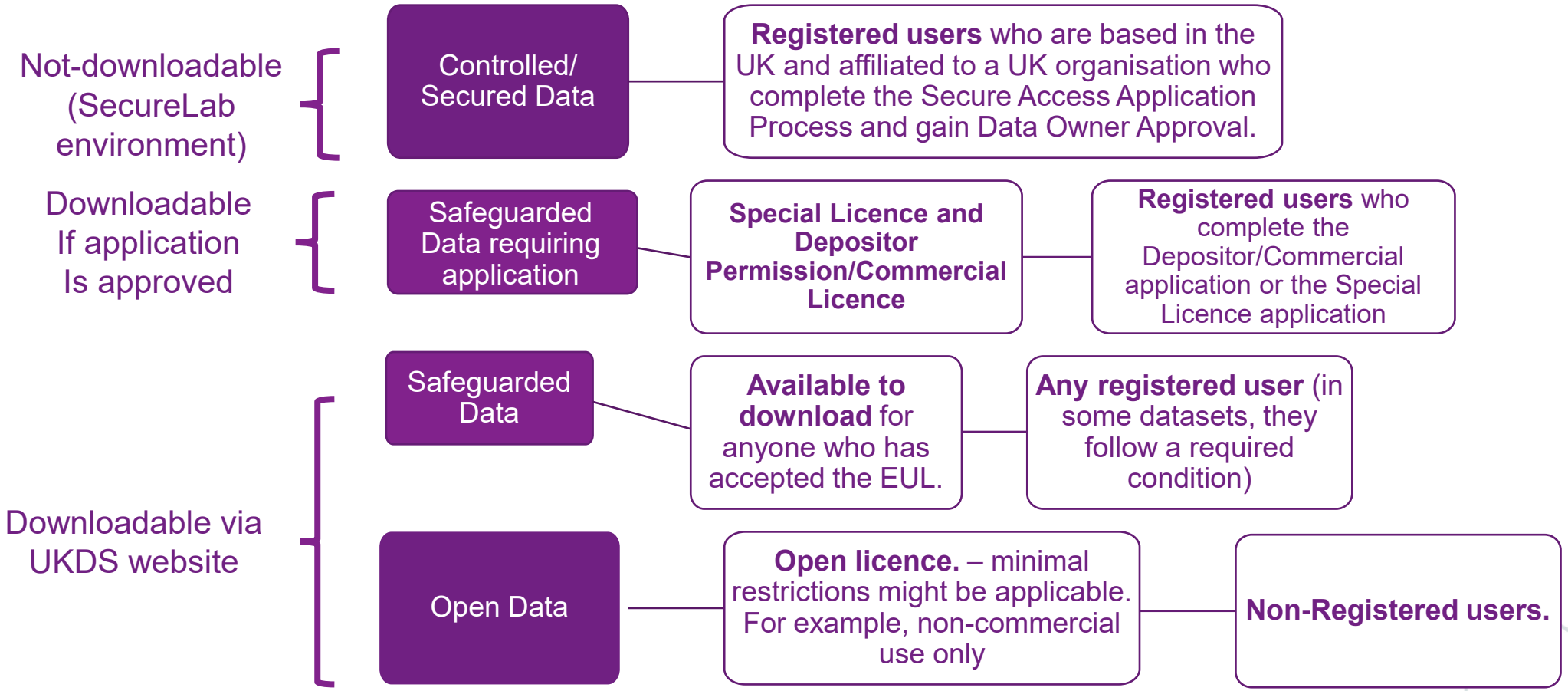




Exercise: Search for a dataset on the UKDS website

- Navigate to the UK Data Service website.
- Find the dataset SN4552 – “Great Britain Historical Database : Census Data : Education Statistics, 1951-1961”.
- We will give you 5 minutes to locate the dataset in our catalogue, download it and open the dataset.
- Then we will show a series of polls on how easy/hard it was for you to find the data.

Three-tier Access Policy



Registering with the UK Data Service

- UK Higher education/Further education- sign in through your institution.

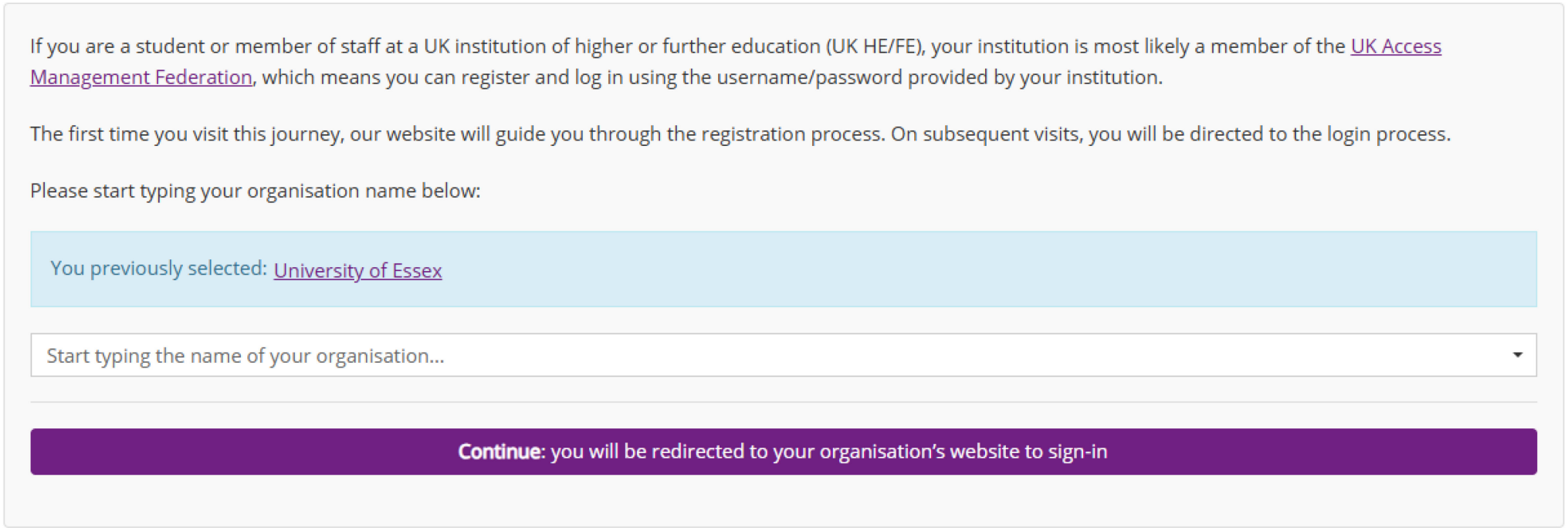
- If not, request a username.



How to register and accept the EUL

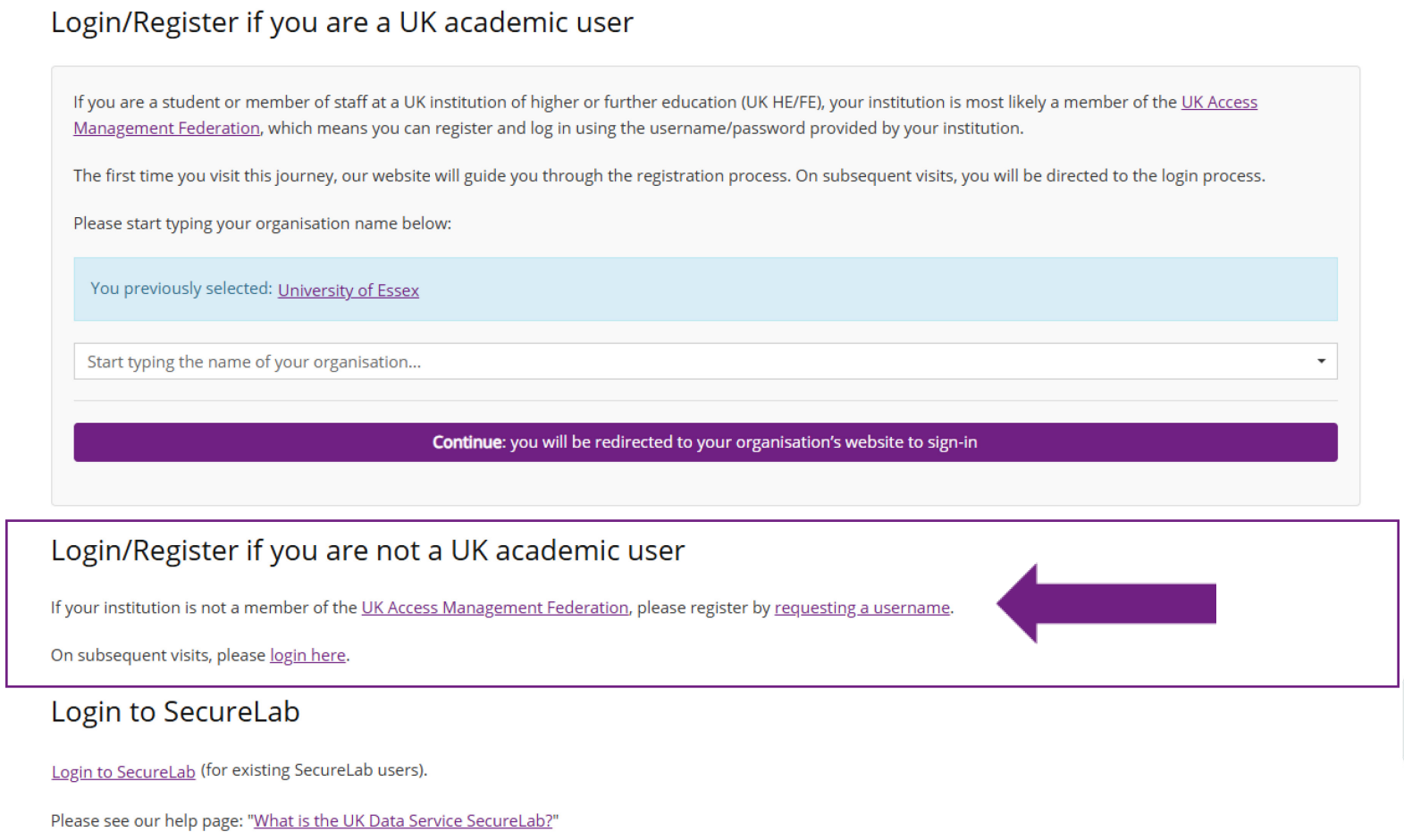
For UK academic users

Login/Register if you are a UK academic user



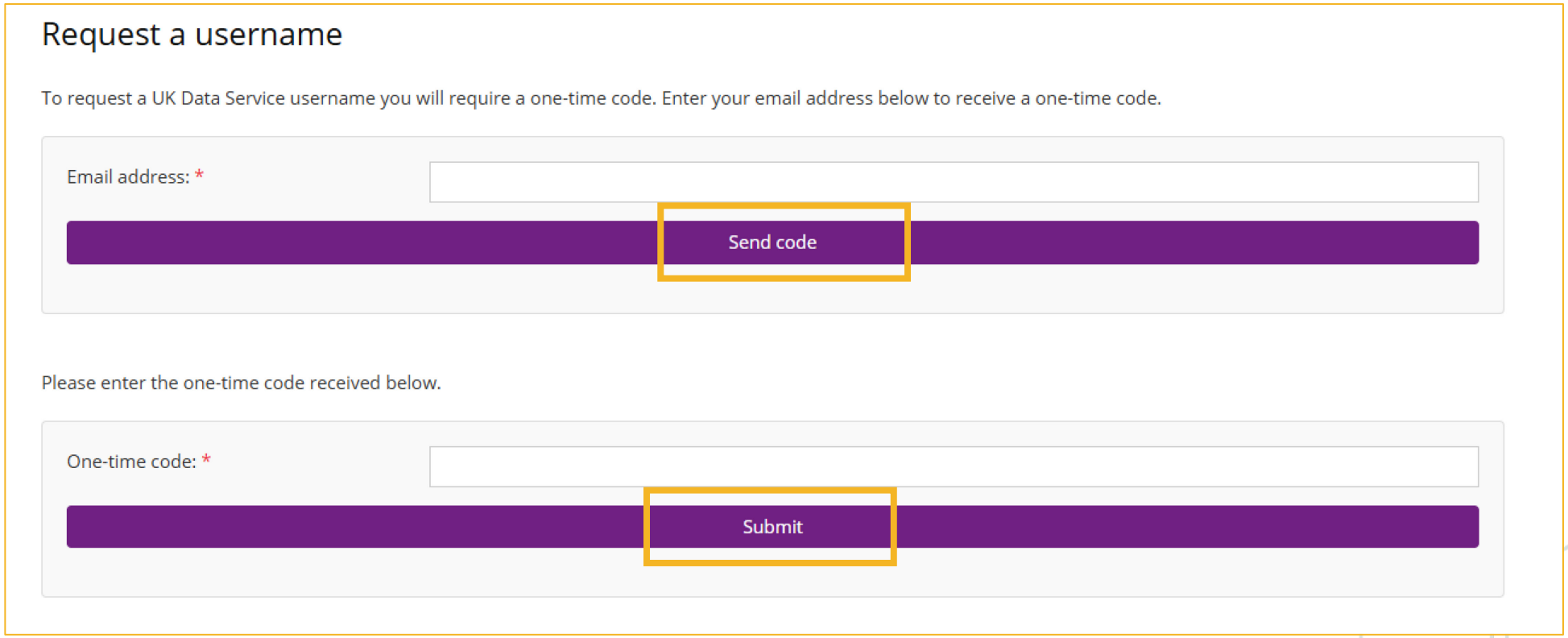
Cont…How to register and accept the EUL

If you are NOT a UK academic user.

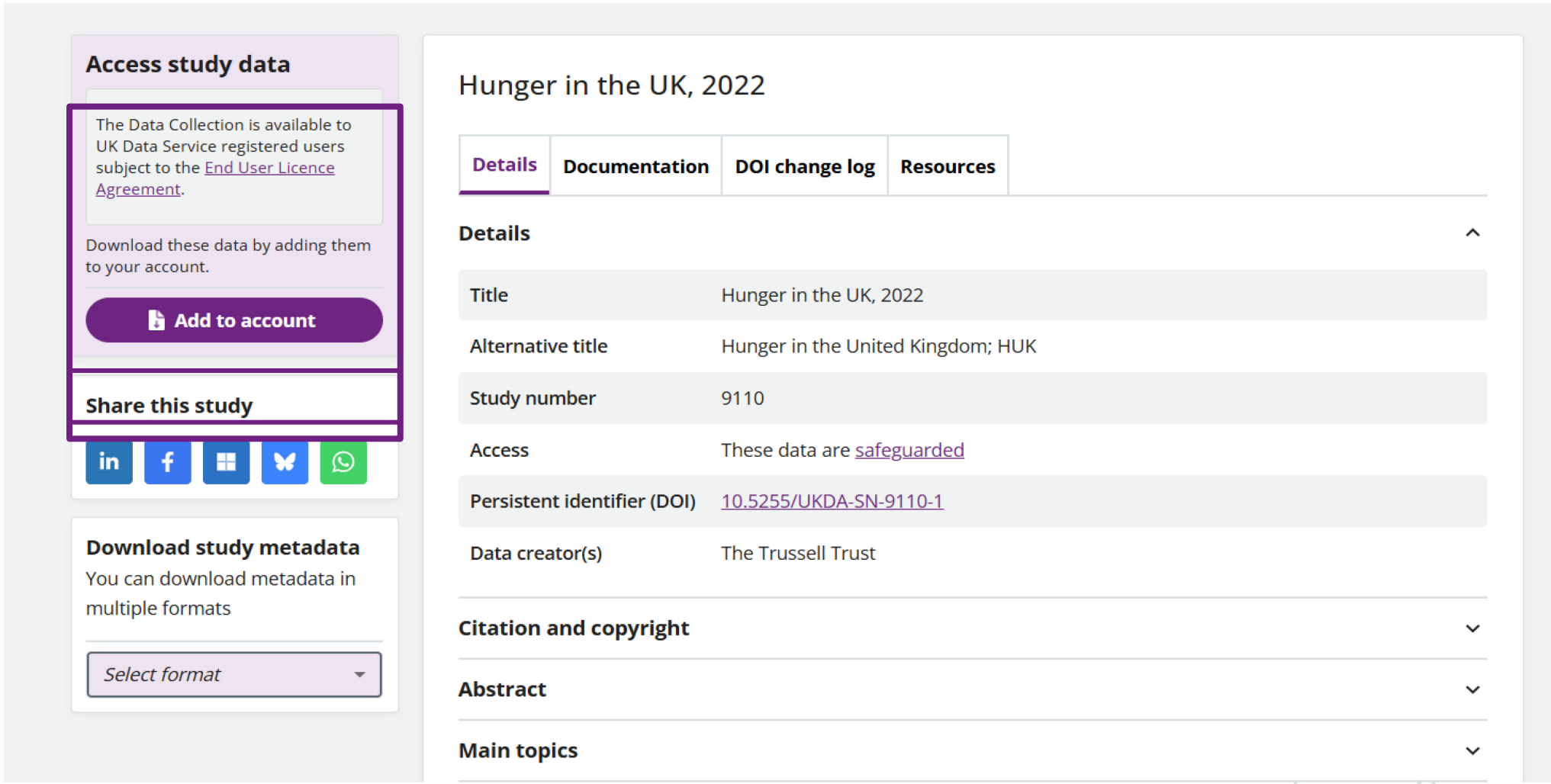


Cont….How to register and accept the EUL

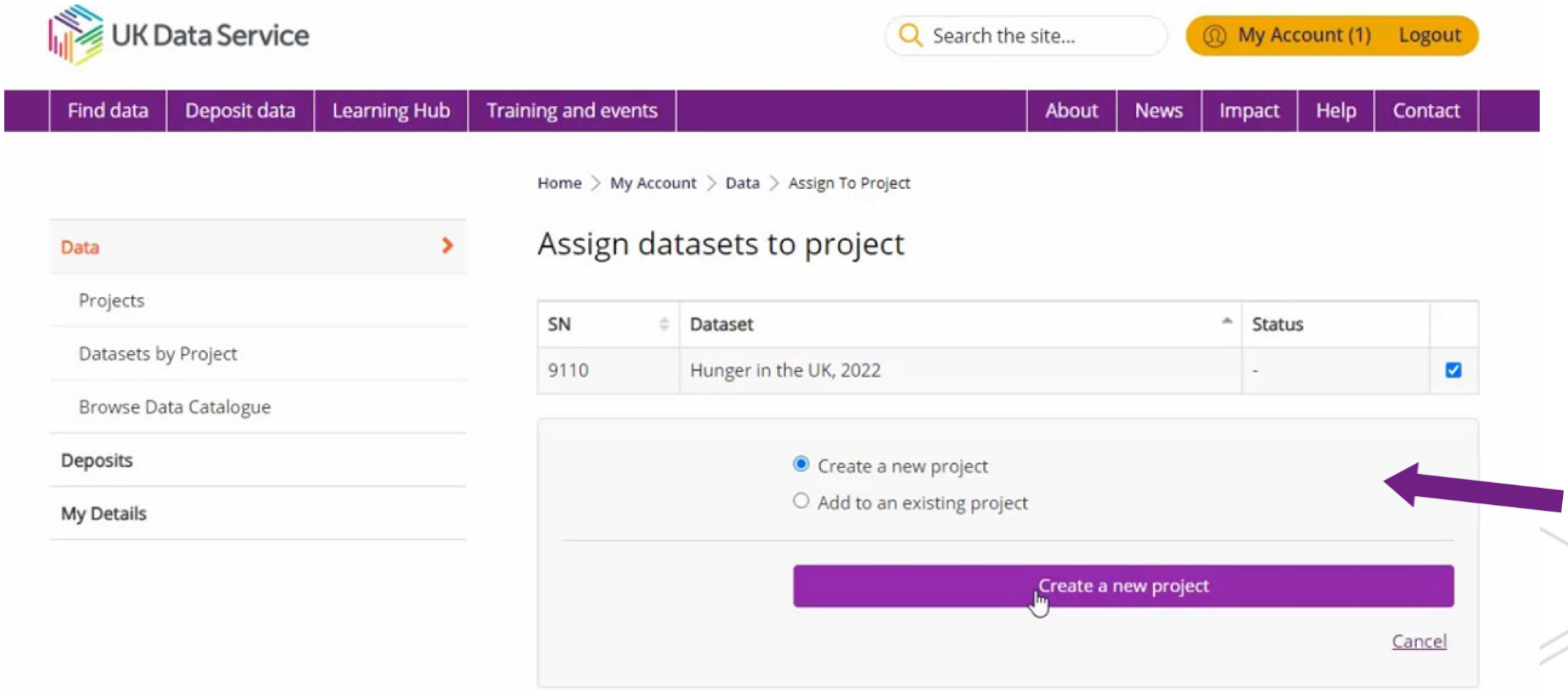
If you are NOT a UK academic user.



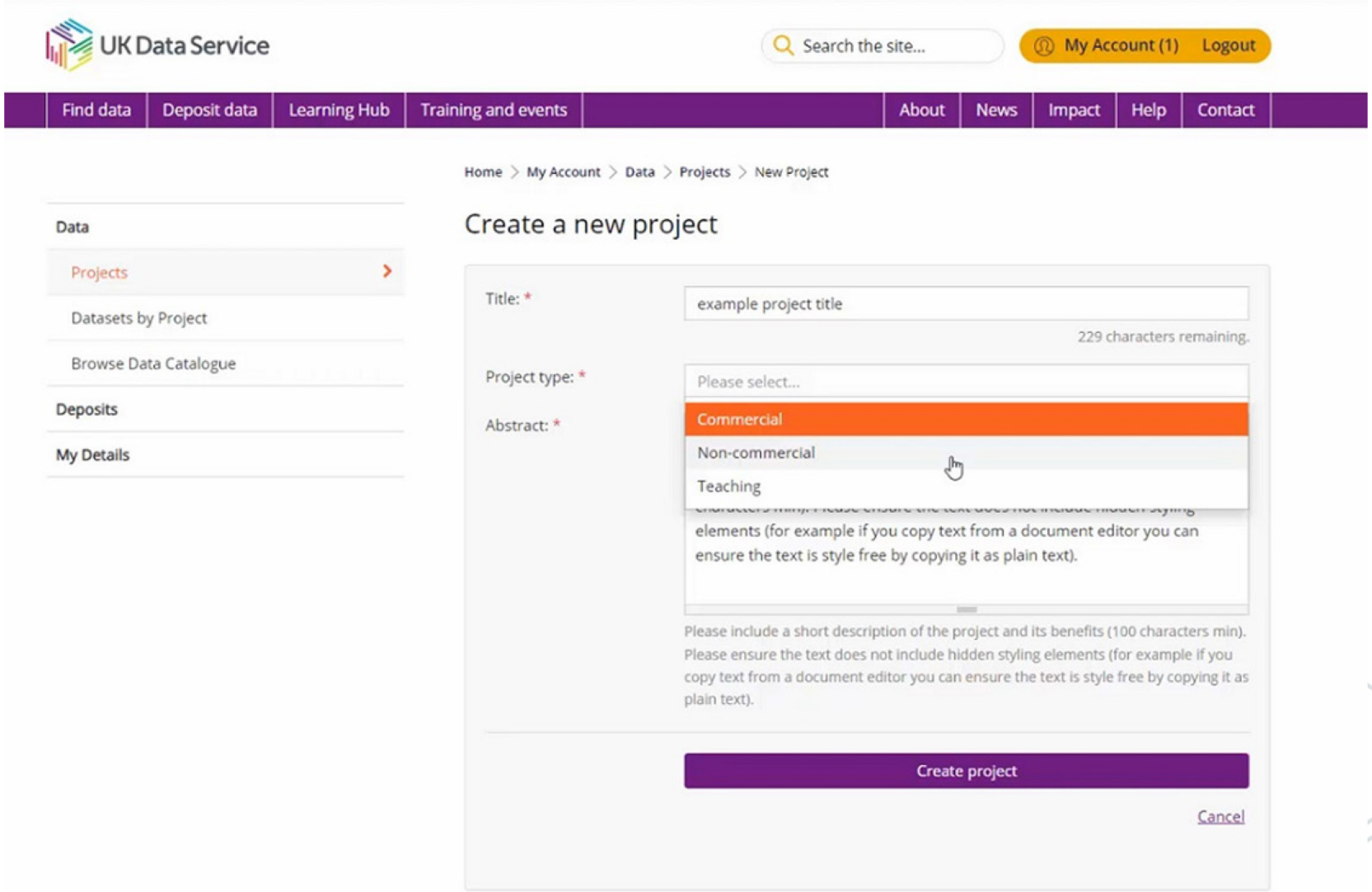
Requesting dataset example



Cont...Requesting dataset example



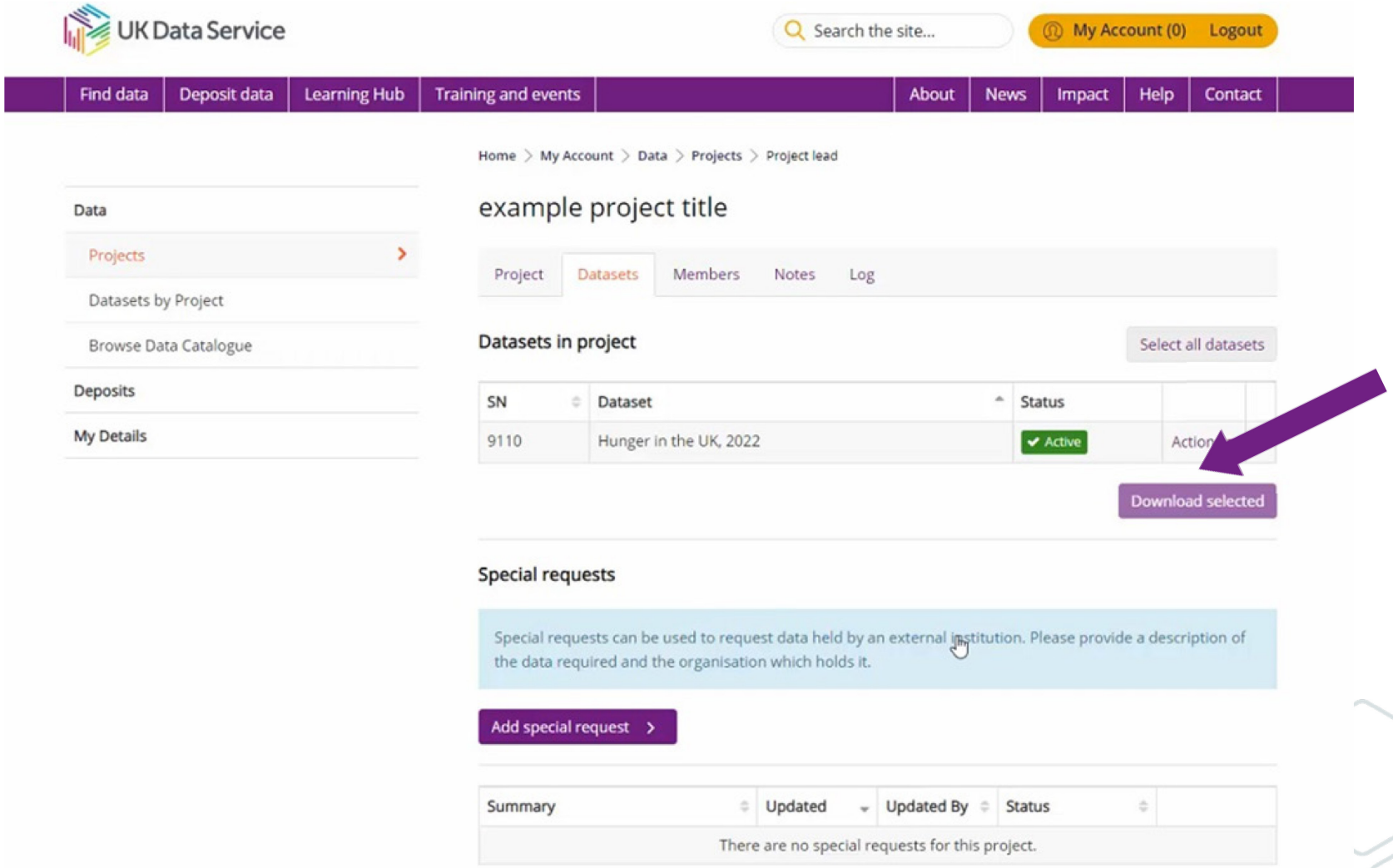
Creating a new project



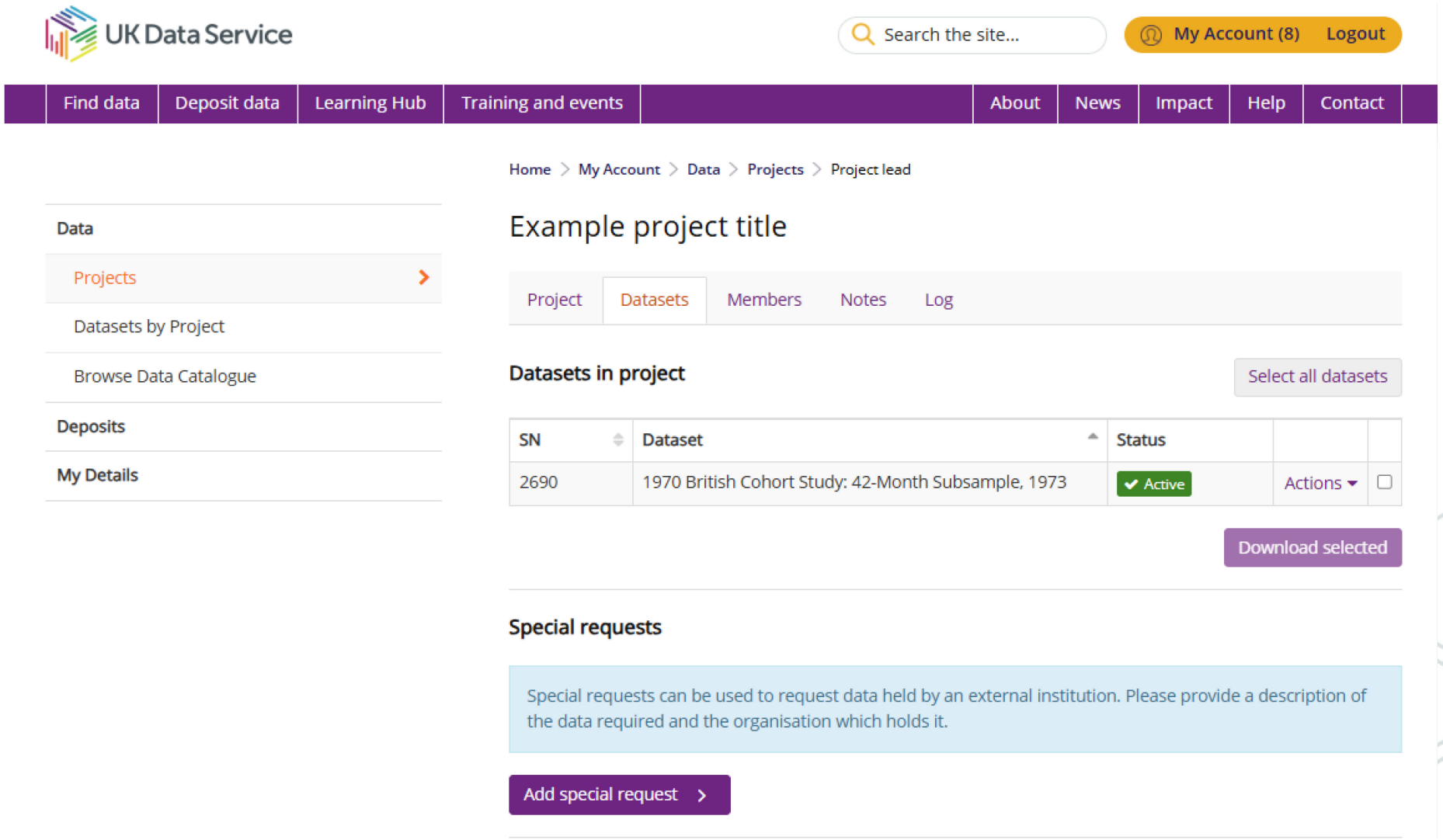
Open vs safeguarded data

- What is open data?
- What is safeguarded data?
- The UK Data Service End User Licence Agreement
- Additional conditions of use and agreements.

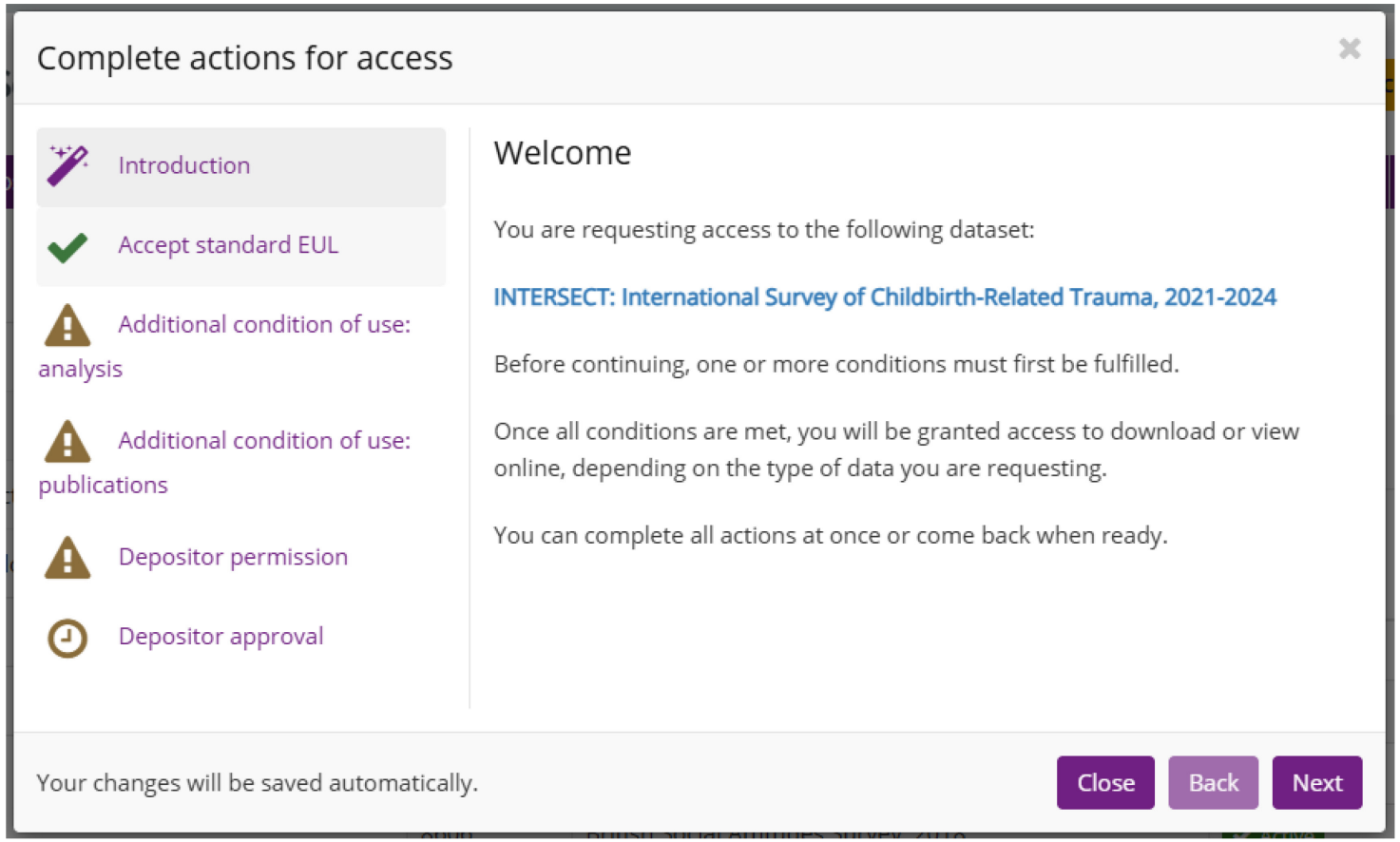
Safeguarded dataset example

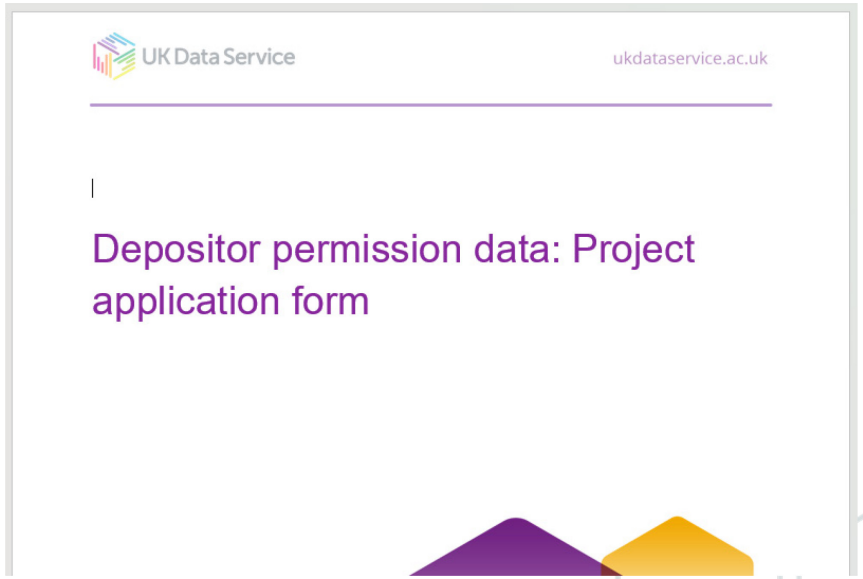


Safeguarded data with special conditions

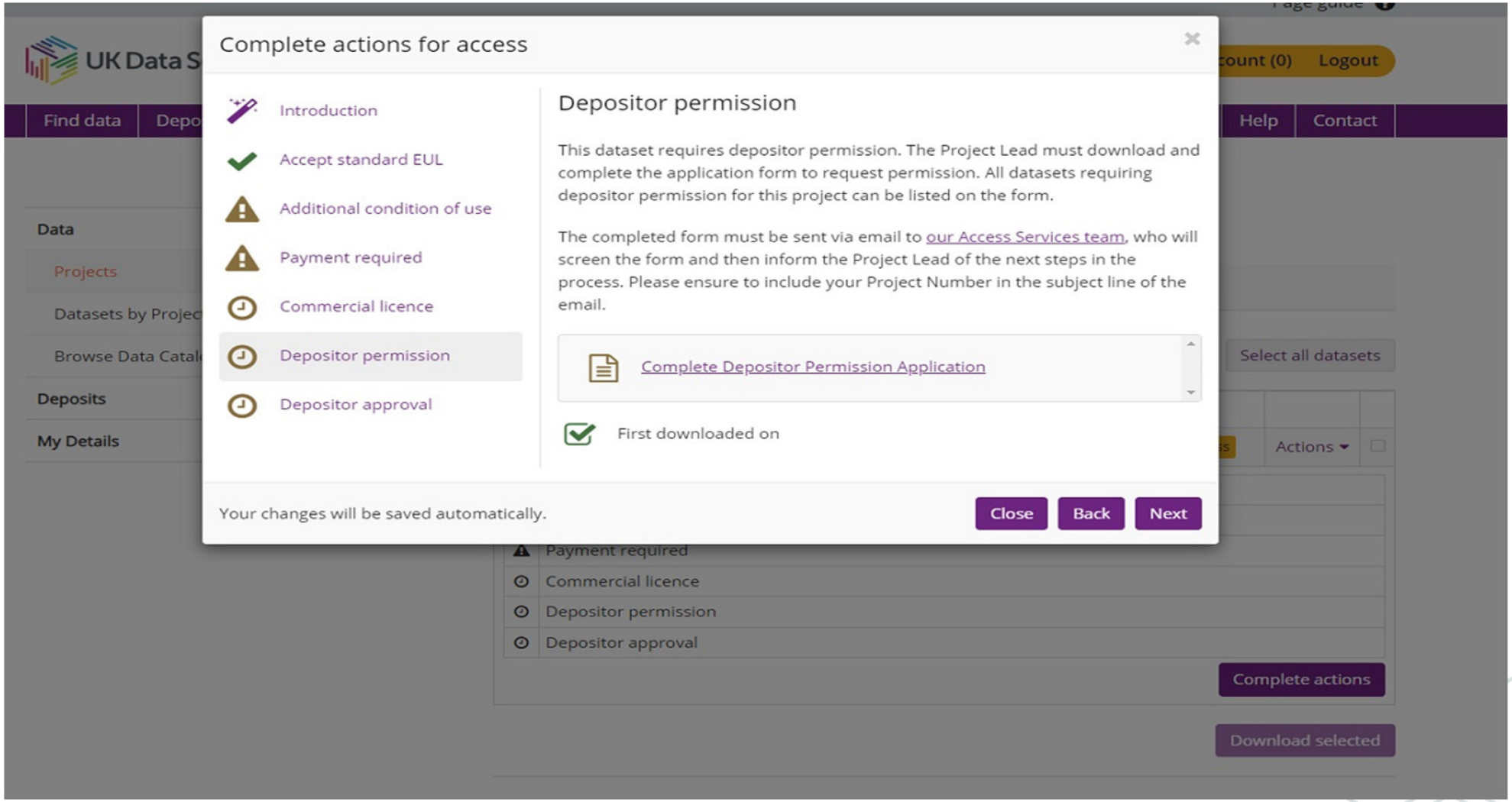


Safeguarded datasets requiring an application

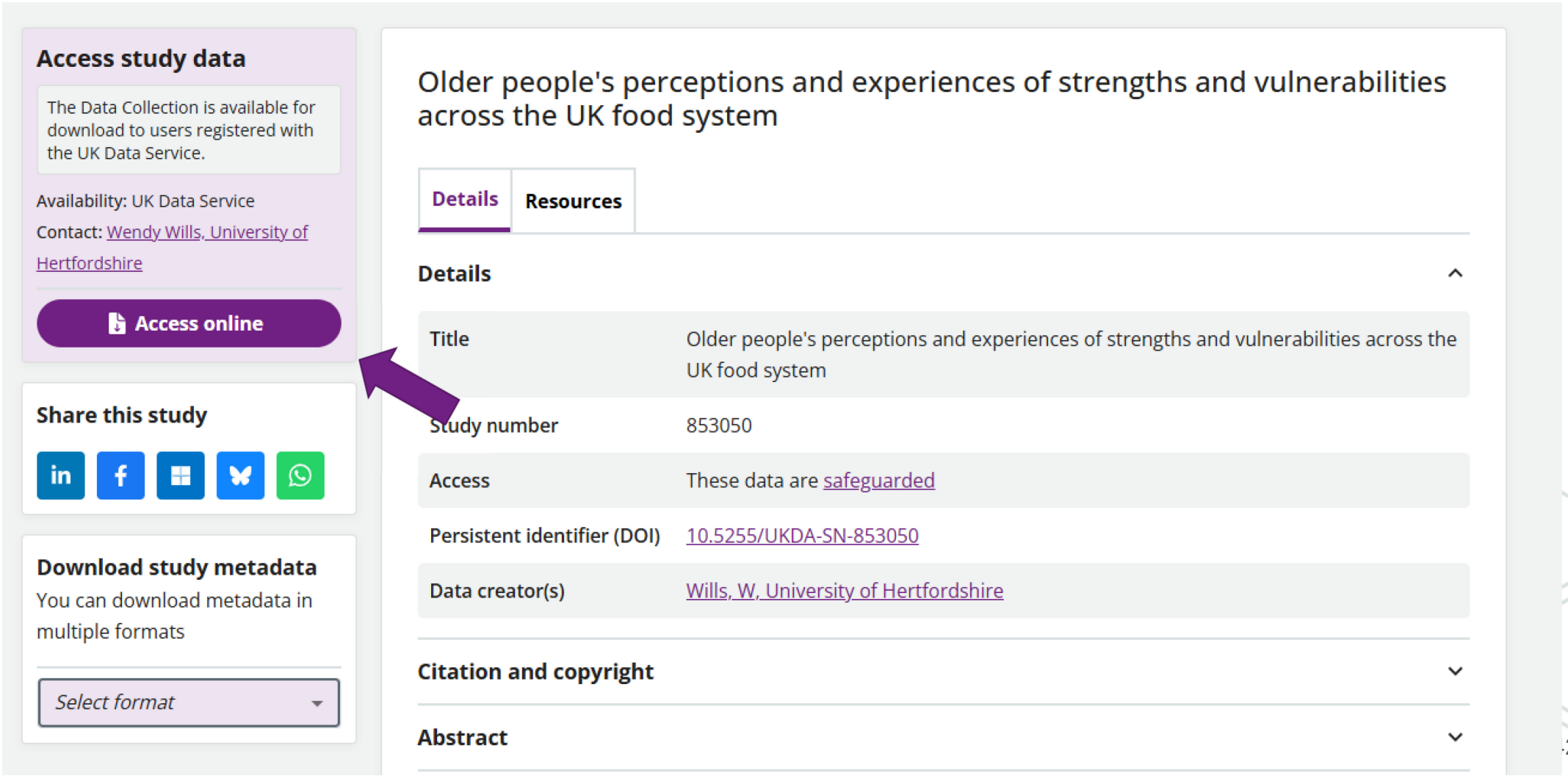




Safeguarded data: Commercial license



Data deposited via Re-share (SN 85xxxx)



Access study data

The Data Collection is available for download to users registered with the UK Data Service.

Availability: UK Data Service

Contact: Wendy Wills, University of Hertfordshire

Access online

Share this study

Download study metadata

You can download metadata in multiple formats

Select format

Older people's perceptions and experiences of strengths and vulnerabilities across the UK food system

Details | Resources

Details

Title	Older people's perceptions and experiences of strengths and vulnerabilities across the UK food system
Study number	853050
Access	These data are safeguarded
Persistent identifier (DOI)	10.5255/UKDA-SN-853050
Data creator(s)	Wills, W, University of Hertfordshire

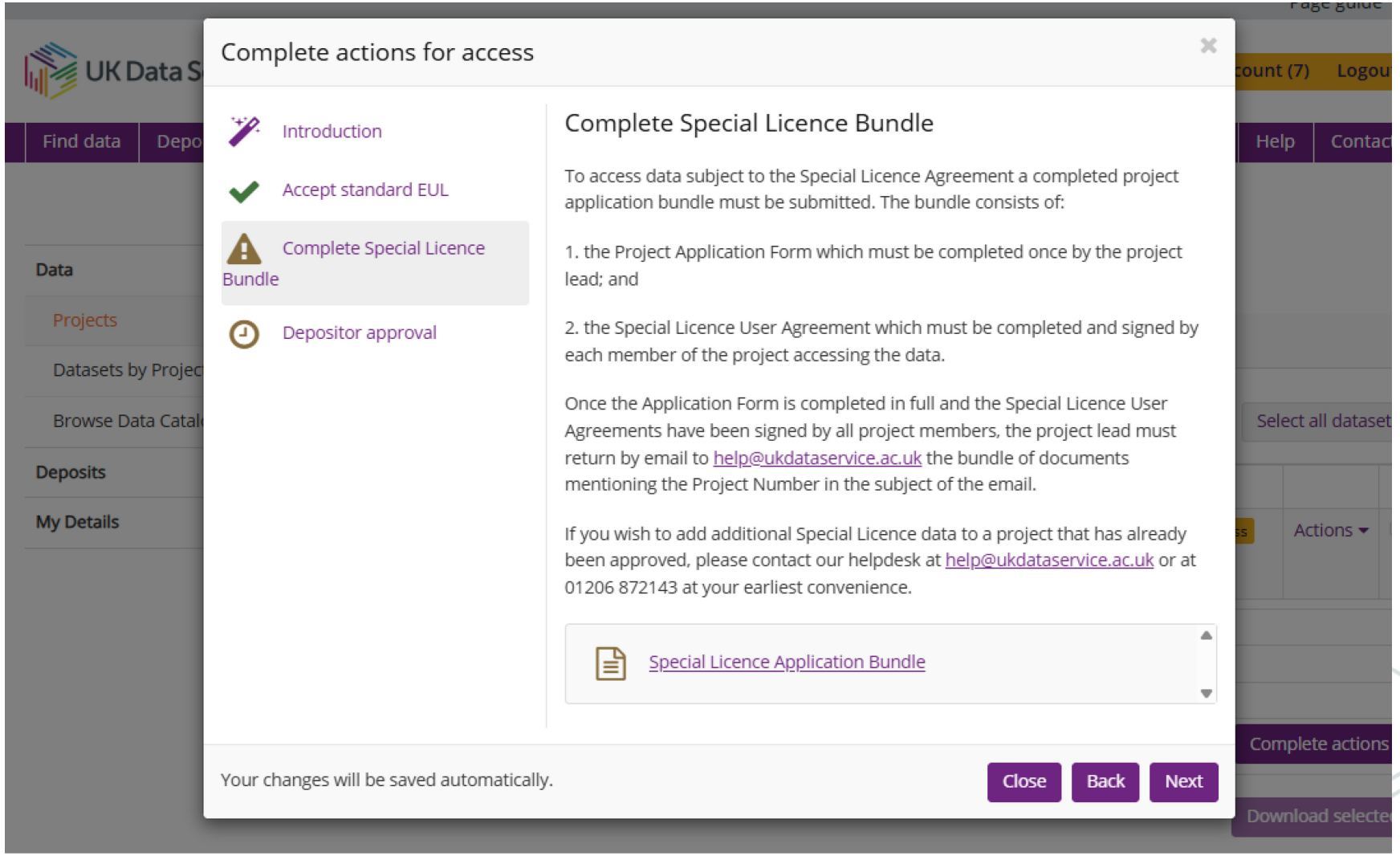
Citation and copyright

Abstract

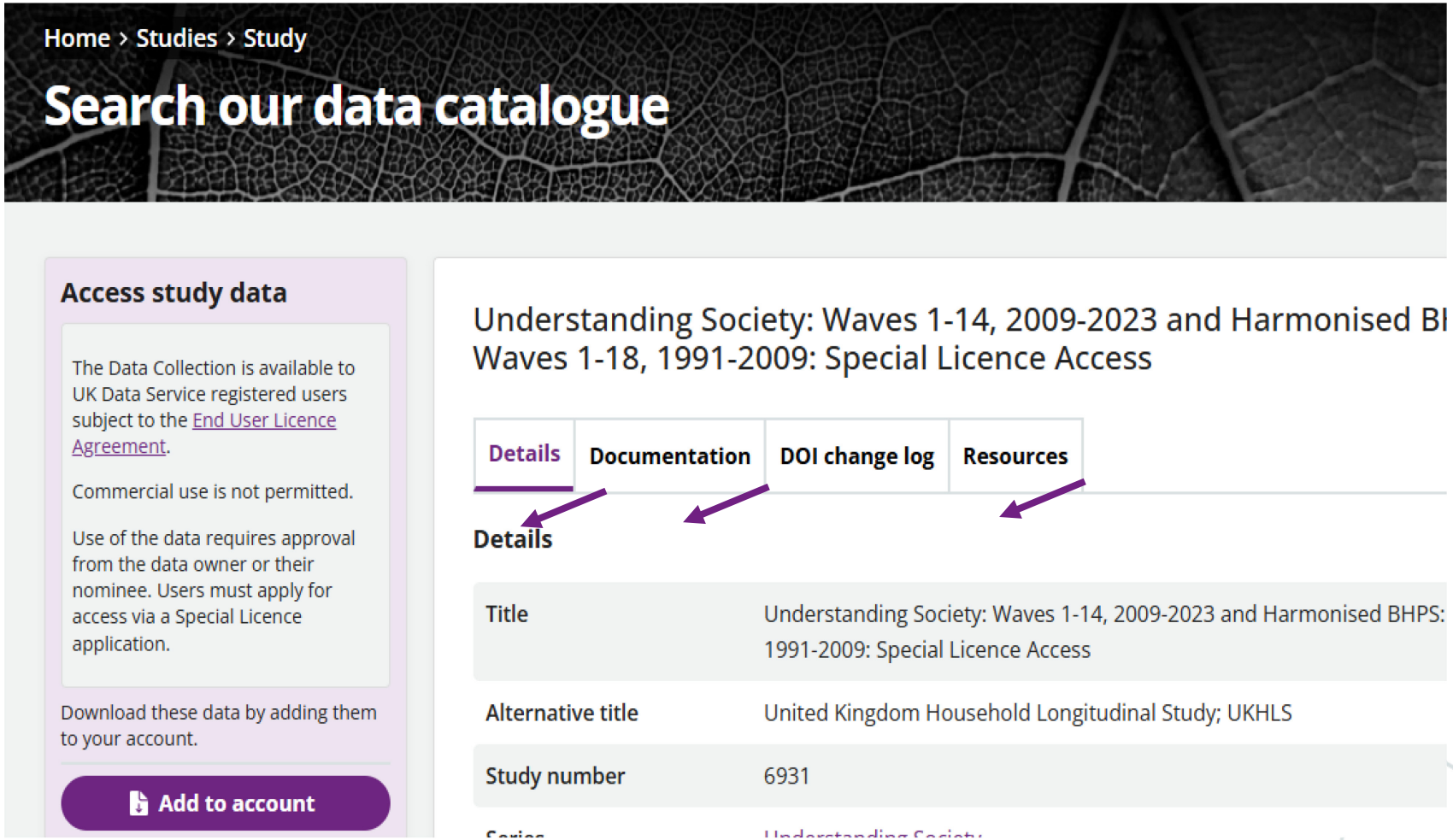
Special Licence data

- What is Special Licence data?
- How can Special Licence data be applied for?
- Important considerations for applying for Special Licence data.
- Research Data Handling and Security: Guide for Users.

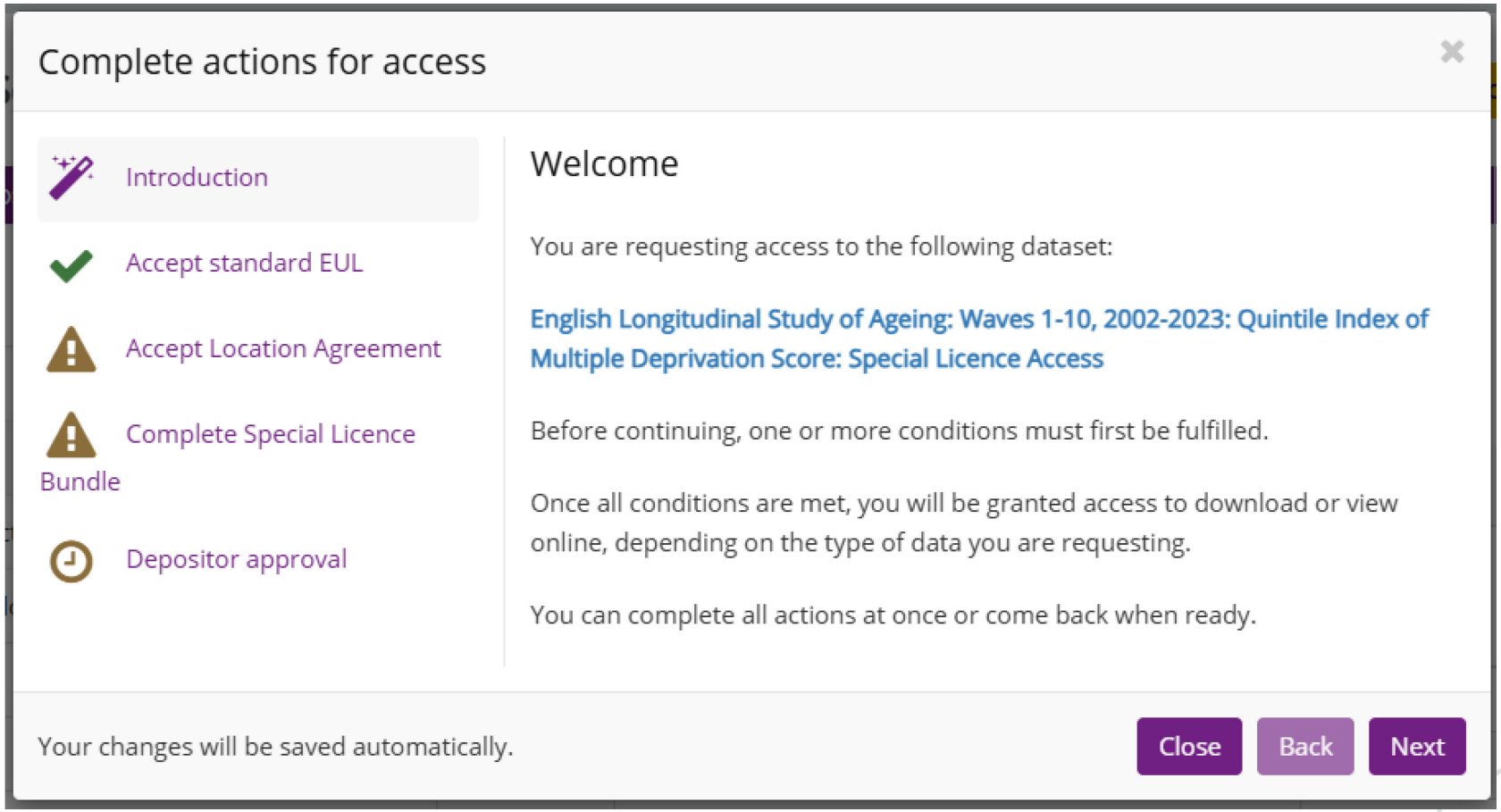
Special Licence example



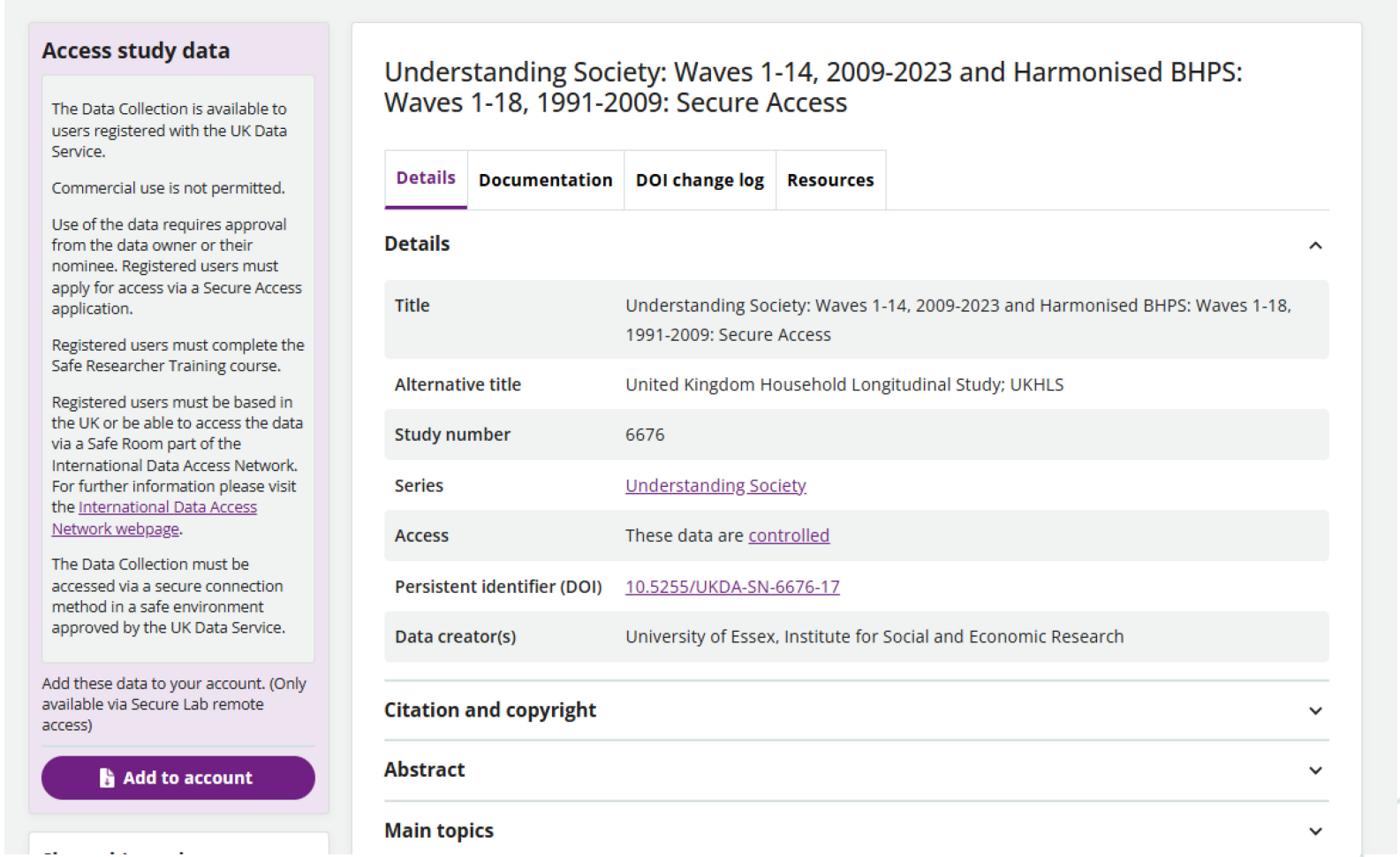
Special Licence: Important information



Cont...Special Licence: Important information



Secure access datasets



Access study data

The Data Collection is available to users registered with the UK Data Service.

Commercial use is not permitted.

Use of the data requires approval from the data owner or their nominee. Registered users must apply for access via a Secure Access application.

Registered users must complete the Safe Researcher Training course.

Registered users must be based in the UK or be able to access the data via a Safe Room part of the International Data Access Network. For further information please visit the International Data Access Network webpage.

The Data Collection must be accessed via a secure connection method in a safe environment approved by the UK Data Service.

Add these data to your account. (Only available via Secure Lab remote access)

Add to account

Understanding Society: Waves 1-14, 2009-2023 and Harmonised BHPS: Waves 1-18, 1991-2009: Secure Access

Details | Documentation | DOI change log | Resources

Details

Title	Understanding Society: Waves 1-14, 2009-2023 and Harmonised BHPS: Waves 1-18, 1991-2009: Secure Access
Alternative title	United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study; UKHLS
Study number	6676
Series	Understanding Society
Access	These data are controlled
Persistent identifier (DOI)	10.5255/UKDA-SN-6676-17
Data creator(s)	University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research

Citation and copyright

Abstract

Main topics

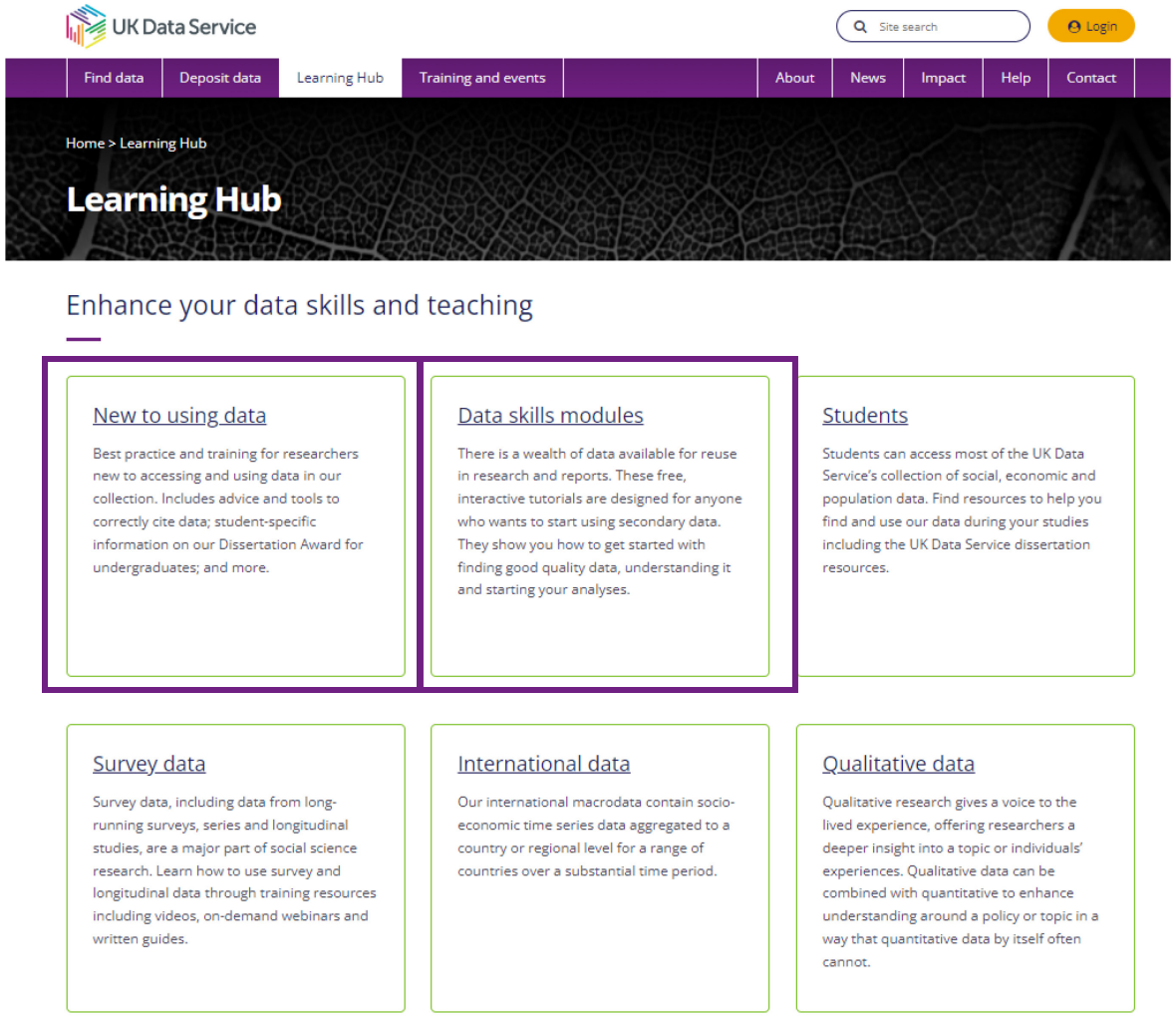
Controlled/Secure data

- Data classified as personal information or personal data and data that are particularly sensitive, commercially or otherwise.
- Use of data is subject to the End User Licence Agreement (PDF) and facilitated via the Five Safes framework.
- These data are made available to registered, authenticated, trained and accredited researchers, with projects approved by the data owner(s) through a secure connection method.
- Before access is given to the UK Data Service SecureLab, each team member and a suitable delegated authority in their institution must sign our Secure Access User Agreement (PDF).

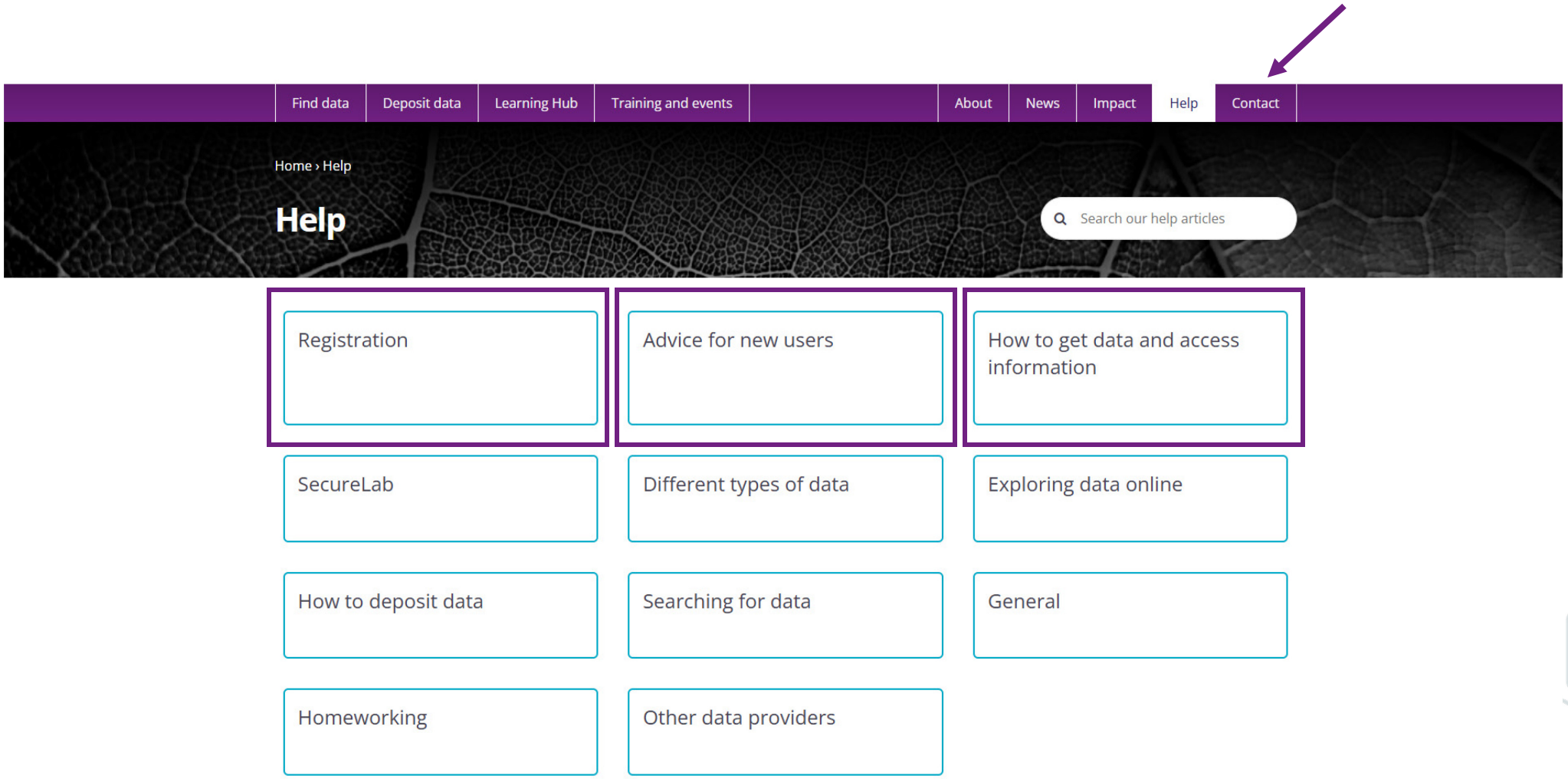
Secure access datasets

The Five Safes	
Is this an appropriate use of the data?	Safe projects +
How trustworthy are the researchers?	Safe people +
Does the environment prevent misuse?	Safe setting +
Is the data detail appropriate?	Safe data +
Is there any confidentiality risk from publication?	Safe outputs =
	Safe use

Resources for using data



Help pages

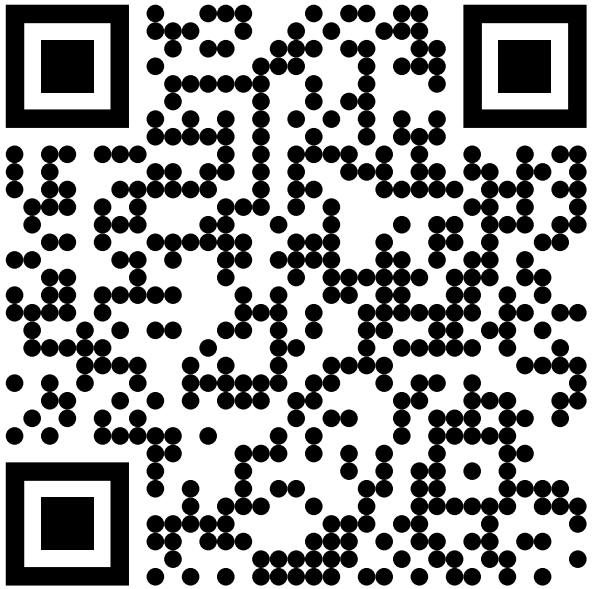

Find data
Deposit data
Learning Hub
Training and events
About
News
Impact
Help
Contact
Home › Help
Help
Search our help articles
Registration
Advice for new users
How to get data and access information
SecureLab
Different types of data
Exploring data online
How to deposit data
Searching for data
General
Homeworking
Other data providers

Useful links

We have the links mentioned in the presentation listed below:

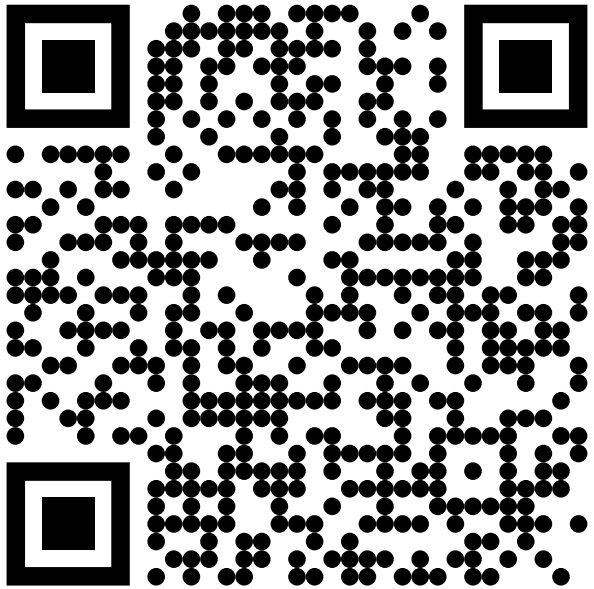
- YouTube channel - UK DATA SERVICE – YouTube
- Data Catalogue - UK Data Service › Studies
- Help Desk Webform
- Browse Data Page – Browse.

Register for the UK Data Service



My account login

UK Data Service training and events



Training and events

Thank you

UK Data Service: Get in Touch
BlueSky
LinkedIn
Newsletter
Data Impact Blog