Finding and accessing data in the UK Data Service

Maddison A. Jones
Data Access Assistant

15th April 2021
What we will cover in this session

Introducing our data
• Finding data
- Key Data
- Data by Theme
- Data Catalogue
- Useful resources: HASSET, Data Map

• Understanding the Data Set & Series records

• How to Access Data
  Access conditions
  Downloading data
  Online data access
What is the UK Data Service?

- A comprehensive resource funded by the ESRC
- Single point of access to a wide range of secondary social science data
- Support, Training and Guidance
Sources of Data

• National statistical authorities
• UK government departments
• Intergovernmental organisations
• Research institutes
• Individual researchers
Who is it for?

• students
• Government analysts
• Charities and foundations
• Business consultants
• Independent research centres
• Think tanks
Types of data available from us

**Survey Microdata**
- Major UK surveys
- Cross-national
- Longitudinal

**International Macrodata**
- Multi-nation aggregate databanks & Survey data

**Census**
- Aggregate data for 1971-2011
- Microdata for 1981-2011

**Qualitative/Mixed methods**
- Range of multimedia qualitative data sources
- Mix of qualitative and quantitative data
Data Categorization

- **By type**
  - Detailed data about persons
    - UK surveys
    - Census microdata
    - Cohort and longitudinal studies
    - Cross-national surveys
    - Business surveys
  - Data about places
    - Small areas – census data
    - Countries – international time series
  - Qualitative and mixed method

- **By purpose**
  - Research
  - Teaching

- **By detail**
  - Variables and questions
Quantitative Data Example

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Information about interviewee
Date of birth : 1902
Gender : M
Marital status : Married
Occupation : Railway worker
Geographic region : Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs

I : Can I have your full name please?
FW : Frank Woolley.
I : And your present address?
FW : 34 Speedwell Street, Longton.
I : And are you married?
FW : Yes.
I : And the year of you marriage?
FW : 1930.
I : The year you were born?
FW : 1902.
I : And where were you born?
FW : Ashtfield Road, Longton.
I : Can you remember how many years you lived in Edgefield Road in the house where you were born?
FW : No, I'm afraid not.
I : Can you remember if you stayed in that house until 1918 or were there any moves in between?
FW : Oh there's moves in between.
I : Can you remember where you moved to from Edgefield Road?

FW : The first address I can remember living in is number 8 Helechote Street, as I can remember living in. So I must have been a baby when I left Edgefield Road.
I : So you can't have lived there very long at all?
FW : No. And then the next address is Melvin Street.

I : Can you remember how long you were there?
FW : Oh I should be there 'til I'm about nine I should imagine, eight or nine.
I : And then where did you move to?
FW : 57 Speedwell Street. And that's - that's where I stayed 'til I was married.
I : Do you remember why the family made all these moves?
FW : Oh well in them days they used to do. families could go anywhere. There was always houses empty you know.
I : Do you know why this was?
FW : Well - I couldn't say really. 'Cos I can remember in this row here, three or four houses empty at a time.
I : Couldn't people afford them?
FW : Well they could afford a them but they could move anywhere - but the reason why did move into Speedwell Street is when the family was getting bigger, had a three roomed house see.
I : So as the family increased you need a larger house?
FW : Yes.
I : Can you remember how many brother and sisters you had?
FW : I had three brothers, seven sisters.
I : So there was eleven children altogether?
FW : Yes.
Finding Data
Finding Data: Key Data

British Social Attitudes
This National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) survey tracks people’s changing social, political and moral attitudes and informs the development of public policy. It has been conducted since 1983, with over 3,600 respondents annually and questions repeated periodically.

Citizenship Survey
The Citizenship Survey was conducted seven times between 2001 and 2011. It was designed to capture information on community cohesion, civic engagement, race and faith, and volunteering.

Community Life Survey
The Community Life Survey was first commissioned by the Cabinet Office in 2012-2013. It is an annual household survey conducted with adults resident in England, covering a range of topics including measures that are key to understanding society and local communities, such as volunteering, charitable giving, civic engagement and social action.

Continuous Household Survey
The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland. It has been conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) since 1983 and covers a wide range of social and economic issues.

Crime Survey for England and Wales
The Crime Survey for England and Wales (formerly British Crime Survey) asks over 50,000 people living in households in England and Wales about their experiences of crime in the last 12 months.

European Election Study
European Election Studies (EES) have taken place for six of the seven European parliamentary elections held since 1979, with the exception of 1984. The format for each EES is a core survey – maintaining comparability over time – and a thematic module, chosen for its pertinence to the election.

European Quality of Life Survey
The European Quality of Life Survey is a pan-European survey that examines a range of issues, such as employment, income, education, housing, family, health, work-life balance, life satisfaction and perceived quality of society.

European Social Survey
The European Social Survey (ESS) is a biannual multi-country survey covering over 30 nations. Its aim is to measure and explain trends in attitudes, beliefs and values across countries in Europe and its close neighbours.

European and World Values Studies
The European Values Study and World Values Survey series are designed to enable a cross-national, cross-cultural comparison of values and norms on a wide variety of topics and to monitor changes in values and attitudes across the globe. The surveys provide data from representative national samples of the publics of more than 90 countries and cover a full range of social, economic, cultural and religious variation.

IEA CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion
The International Energy Agency (IEA) Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Emissions from Fuel Combustion database provides a comparative analysis of CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion, a major source of anthropogenic emissions. The data are designed to assist in understanding the evolution of these emissions on a country, regional and worldwide basis. Access IEA CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion

IEA Coal Information
The International Energy Agency (IEA) Coal Information database contains worldwide coal statistics covering production, trade, use in transformation (electricity and heat production) and final consumption in industry and other sectors from 1960 onwards. Access IEA Coal Information
Finding Data: Theme Pages

The UK Data Service has a library of case studies demonstrating how UK Data Service data have been used to address issues on ageing.

See the following highlighted case studies for some ideas for ageing:

Fertility and pension systems

A large body of literature (e.g., studies by the economist suggested that the decline in fertility rates in the last century may be linked to the progressive deterioration of health and, in some cases, reduces the expected old-age survival rate.

The Last Refuge revisited

Effective care for the elderly is a key challenge for British society and one that requires careful planning. This study explored the provision of care for older people in the context of an increasingly ageing population and the changing nature of healthcare. Rather than a single approach to the situation, this project took a longer-term view, considering how different policies might contribute to a better outcome for the elderly.

Aging

The UK Data Service helps to support users of data by providing:

- A library of case studies demonstrating how UK Data Service data have been used in case studies using data on ageing.
- Self-study software and good practice guides, such as What is weighting?
- Teaching datasets on the theme of ageing, many of which can be explored online without the need for additional software.
- Thematic guides identifying key datasets in the area of ageing.
- A webinar showcasing data on the topic of ageing that is available from the UK Data Service and highlighting the research potential of the data.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR DATA ON AGING

- British Society for Research on Ageing
- Research into Ageing Fund
- The Oxford Institute of Population Ageing
- Medical Research Council – Ageing Research in the UK
- UK Age Research Forum
- Centre for Ageing Research – Lancaster University
- King’s College London – Ageing Research
- National Institute for Health Research – Age and Aging
- National Database of Ageing Research
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council Ageing research: lifelong health and well-being
- British Geriatrics Society – UK Ageing Research Network Update

Data by theme

The UK Data Service has web pages to aid researchers looking specifically for data on particular themes:

Aging

Aging is the accumulation of a wide range of changes experienced by a person over time, including physical, psychological, and social factors. In particular, given the rise in life expectancy, there has been increasing focus on the social factors of ageing, e.g., longer working hours, pensions, issues related to health and quality of life. Equally, social inequities caused by increasing longevity also raise a complex set of challenges for policy makers. The UK Data Service holds a variety of data collections related to ageing, from key government and longitudinal surveys to international indicators and qualitative historical interviews.

Crime

Crime encompasses a wide range of issues that lie within the remit of several academic disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law and economics. As a theme, crime may cover various topics, ranging from contemporary concerns over youth gangs and anti-social behaviour through 'white collar' and corporate crime, including crimes against the environment, to serious violence. Crime-related data held by the UK Data Service include not only national crime surveys (which themselves cover diverse issues such as drug use and alcohol-related disorder in the night-time economy) but also illegal drug use, workers in the criminal justice system, football hooliganism and community policing in Africa.

Economics

Economics is a social science concerned with the factors that determine the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. As a theme, economics covers various topics including economic activity, public spending, fiscal policy, taxation, trade and productivity. The UK Data Service holds a variety of data collections related to economics, from key government and longitudinal surveys to international indicators.
Data catalogue allows researcher to find and browse data, guides, case studies, and publications.

Enter a keyword, survey name or study number and search our data or website.

Data catalogue search bar is present on a majority of our website pages.
Here I performed a search using the term ‘employment and unemployment’.

Data catalogue search found 1550 related studies and 8 series in our data collection.

- Switch between dataset and data series.
Data Catalogue: Refining your search results

The filters, located on the left-hand side of the screen, can be used to help find a suitable study.

Filters include;
- Date range
- Topic,
- Data type,
- Access (Conditions)
- Country
The Variable and question bank can be located from the catalogue page by selecting the ‘Variable & Question Bank’ option.

You can browse variables and questions from survey datasets.

In the right-hand example the term ‘Solar power’ has been used, returning 19 results that mention the search term in the question or response.
Finding Data: QualiBank

- Allows users to search the qualitative resources archived at the UK Data Service
- Results are retrieved based on the data contents
- Filters can be used to find relevant studies
Useful resources: Data Map

Data Map enables researcher to find data by exploring a map of the world

Studies a grouped together depending on the level of zoom

Links are provided to Data Catalogue, containing more information on each dataset
Each dataset has keyword terms associated with it that come from the Humanities and Social Science Electronic Thesaurus (HASSET).

The ‘keywords’ section from the Catalogue record can be used to identify terms of interest and expand or narrow your search for data.
What we will cover in this session

• Introduction to our Data
• Finding data
  Key data
  Data by theme
  Data Catalogue
  Useful resources: HASSET, Data Map

• Understanding the Data Set & Series records

• How to Access Data
  Access conditions
  Downloading data
  Online data access

• Questions (c. 20 mins)
Understanding the Data series record

Understanding Society

Abstract

The Understanding Society study, or the United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS), which began in 2009, is conducted by the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), at the University of Essex. As a multi-topic household survey, the purpose of Understanding Society is to understand social and economic change in Britain at the household and individual levels. It is anticipated that over time the study will permit examination of short- and long-term effects of social and economic change, including policy interventions, on the general wellbeing of the UK population. The Understanding Society study is a successor to the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). The BHPS sample forms part of Understanding Society from Wave 2 onwards.

Resources

Studies:
- Understanding Society: Interviewer Survey 2014
- Households Below Average Income, 1994/95-2016/17
- Understanding Coronavirus Experiences of Anxiety: a Longitudinal Study 2008-2013: Social Licence Access
- Understanding Society: Wave 3 (2011-2012): Teaching Dataset

Case studies:
- Mental well-being and financial management in older people
- Mixed religion relationships in Northern Ireland: What are the implications?
- The welshedged over 750
- Screen-based media and well being in adolescence
- What predicts our level of well being?

Publications:
Understanding the Data series record; Access data
Understanding the Dataset record


Abstract: This release combines nine waves of Understanding Society data with harmonised data from all eighteen waves of the BHPS. As multi-topic studies, the purpose of Understanding Society and BHPS is to understand short- and long-term effects of social and economic change in the UK at the household and individual levels. The study has a strong emphasis on domains of family and social lives, employment, education, financial resources, and health. Understanding Society is an annual survey of each adult member of a nationally representative sample. The same individuals are re-interviewed in each wave approximately 12 months apart. When individuals move they are followed within the UK and anyone joining their households are also interviewed as long as they are living with them. The study has five sample components: the general population sample; a boost sample of ethnic minority group members; an immigrant and...
Understanding the Dataset record;
Data Access Policy

Reshare Data
Where depositors have self-deposited data, conditions are described in the record and may be non-standard. A small number of studies may not have accessible outputs.

Safeguarded Data
- Available to registered users
- **End User Licence** - No direct identifiers but some disclosure risk through linking of indirect identifiers.
- **Special Licence** - Anonymised but contain more detailed information than EUL data. Require compliance with the additional conditions and access must be approved by the data owner.

Open Data
- Minimal to no disclosure risk
- Can be accessed without registration
- Require data acknowledgement

Controlled Data
- Accessed via **Secure Lab** or **Safe Room**
- Very sensitive data that may contain disclosure information
- Limited to approved researchers who demonstrate their trustworthiness around personal data and pass all Safe Researcher Training and security checks.
How to access data: Register

Application for a username

Your contact details

Title: Please select...
First name: 
Last name: *
Address line 1: *
Address line 2:
Address line 3:
Town / City: *
County / District: 
Postcode: *
Country: Please select...
Email address: Please enter the email address supplied to you by your organisation/institution if you have one.
How to access data: Downloading data

Assign datasets to project

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- Create a new project
- Add to an existing project

Project: *Please select...*

Only checked datasets will be added to this project.

Add to project

Cancel
How to access data: Viewing your projects
How to access data: Online tools - Nesstar

Explore online

A selection of data are available to explore via our online tools.

Nesstar

Nesstar is the online data exploration system used by the UK Data Service to provide access to a wide variety of datasets. All visitors to our Nesstar Catalogue can browse study metadata, variable frequencies and use the simple and advanced search options. Registered users can also create simple online cross tabulations, produce graphs, and download subsets of variables in a variety of formats.

Millennium Cohort Study: Sixth Survey, 2015

Access data

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

Commercial use of the data requires approval from the data owner or their nominees. The UK Data Service will contact you.

Additional conditions of use apply:

Millennium Cohort Study: Sixth Survey 2015

Additional Agreement on Conditions of Use

Confidentiality

I agree not to use or attempt to use the Data Collections to identify the individuals from which the study sample was selected, nor to claim to have done so.

I agree not to link between the research identifiers supplied by the UK Data Service (MCSID) and any other identifiers previously issued.

Download these data by adding them to your account.

Register or login to add data to your account.

Access these data online using Nesstar.

Register or login to add data to your account.

Access online

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How to access data: Online tools - Nesstar

- Located in the left hand column is a full list of all Data Collections available Via NESSTAR.
- Using the left hand column you can expand menus to see the datasets metadata and variable descriptions.
- A dataset abstract is also provided on Nesstar, providing information out about the data.
- Tabs across the top help you to tabulate and analyse variables.
How to access data: Online tools – UKDS.Stat

International macrodata can be accessed online using UKDS.Stat.

UKDS.Stat can be accessed by going to ‘Get Data’ – ‘Explore online’

These data are provided by a number of organisations such as the World Bank, OECD, and the United Nations.

Allows the easy creation of time series data displayed as heatmaps and other visualisations.
How to access data: Online Census Tools - InFuse

http://infuse.ukdataservice.ac.uk
Getting in touch & FAQs

Contacts

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTACT US ABOUT?

Manage and Deposit data
- Data management - for issues related to anonymisation, copyright, data storage and other data management queries
- Depositing data - for advice and support for data owners and producers

Find and Access data
- Accessing data - for questions about downloading data, data formats, obtaining Special Licence or Secure Access data
- Registration - for queries such as: How do I register? Can I register with you?
- Existing user/corporate - for questions about project renewal and order status
- Searching for data - for queries about the data collections held or give access to.
  For example: Do you have data on parenting?

Using data and Secure Lab
- Analysing/Using data - for questions about any data obtained from us. For example:
  A variable is missing from my file. Which weight variable should I use?
- Online analytical tools - to report issues or to get advice on using tools such as Netstat, UKDS Stata, Infox, Coexist, GetConvert,
- Publications - use to send us details of your research publications
- Safe Room booking - for requests to use our Safe Room
- Output release - to request a check on output created within the Secure Lab
- Secure Lab Import data request - for Secure Lab users only

Technical/Communications/Other
- Technical issues - for technical problems related to Secure Lab, ReShare and general website issues
- Training/events and policy - for press enquiries and information about events and training
- Other queries - for issues not covered by any of the other categories

FAQs

Help - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Answers to some of our most frequently asked questions are provided here.
If you are unable to find an answer to your question, please get in touch by selecting one of the short web forms.

Help
got how we help?”

Questions about how go login and register

How do I log into the UK Data Service?

How do I log into the Secure Lab?

When registering - what usernames and passwords are acceptable to the UK Data Service?

When registering I entered an incorrect email address. What should I do?

How do I obtain a username and password?

When I try to log in/register my organisation does not appear on the list. What should I do?

How do I login/register to ReShare?

When I try to log in to ReShare, I am sent to the UK Data Service registration page. Although I have already registered, what do I do?

I am outside the UK. Can I use your data?

help@ukdataservice.ac.uk
Contact Us:

ukdataservice.ac.uk/help
Twitter- @UKDataService