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# Data at the UK Data Archive: An Overview

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Looking after and managing your research data:  
An advanced course  
18-19 June 2015

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UK Data Service

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# Overview

- UK Data Service – overview service and data holdings
- Finding and accessing data
- User support and resources
- Questions



# UK Data Service

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UK Data Service

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Welcome to the UK Data Service

Your resource for quality social research data

A unified point of access to data from ESDS, Census Programme, Secure Data Service and others

STOP

LATEST TWEETS

UKDataService RCUK's revised Policy on Open Access now online, to be in effect this month. <http://t.co/k3ouofVe4O> @research\_uk #openaccess

UKDataService @Barnard17 There are lots of population statistics available via @ONS and @EU\_Eurostat. Sent a list of links to your blog. Good luck!

UKDataService RT @Censusacuk: <http://t.co/qVRh450y2m> is now Census Support

LATEST NEWS

Call for papers: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey user meeting

European Social Survey invites EU data users to visit and learn

Digital Futures: Your input needed on data digitisation

UK Data Service featured in Royal

OUR DATA COMMUNITY

The UK Data Service is at the core of a network of trust that includes data owners, producers, funders and users.

Who can most benefit from the data we hold?

- Academic researchers and students
- Government analysts
- Charities and foundations

QUICK ACCESS TO

Key data

Census Support

Information for new users

Frequently asked questions

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Search and browse our data collection, support guides, case studies and related publications.

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Data Website

Integrates ESDS, Survey Question Bank and Census.ac.uk

<http://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk>

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# 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
- listen to the recorded webinars at <http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/news-and-events/newsitem/?id=3494>



# What does the UK Data Service do?

- Put together a **collection of the most valuable data** and enhance that over time
- **Preserve data in the long term** for future research purposes
- Make the **data and documentation** available for reuse
- **Provide data management advice** for data creators
- **Provide support** for users of the service
- Information **about the use** to which data are put
- Easy access through a **website** - [ukdataservice.ac.uk](http://ukdataservice.ac.uk)



# Overview service – some statistics

Holdings: data for research and teaching purposes, used in all sectors and for many different disciplines

- 6,000 datasets in the collection
- 25,000 registered users
- 60,000 downloads worldwide p.a.
- 4000+ user support queries p.a.



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# Overview service – data sources

- Official agencies - mainly central government
- International statistical time series
- Individual academics - research grants
- Market research agencies
- Public records/historical sources
- Access to international data via links with other data archives worldwide



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# What do users do with the data ?

- Comparative research, restudy or follow-up study
- Re-analysis/secondary analysis
- Research design and methodological advancement
- Replication of published statistics
- Teaching and learning



# Types of data collections

- Survey microdata
  - cross-sectional
  - Panel/ Longitudinal
  - International microdata
- Aggregate statistics
  - International macrodata
- Census data
  - Aggregate data for 1971 -2011
  - Microdata for 1991 and 2001 (2011 data are forthcoming)
- Qualitative and mixed methods data
  - in-depth interview transcripts, diaries, anthropological field notes, answers to open-ended survey questions, audio-visual recordings and images (mixed methods: combined with numeric data)



# Overview service – key data

## Government

Large-scale government funded surveys

## Longitudinal

Major UK surveys following individuals over time

## International

Multi-nation aggregate databanks and survey data

## Census

Census data 1971 - 2011

## Business

Sensitive data requiring secure access systems


## Qualitative

Range of multi-media qualitative data sources



# Key data

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Key data

Data by theme

How to access

Secure Access

Open access

Explore online

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Other providers

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Home > Discover data > Key data > Longitudinal studies

## Key data


Browse our most popular datasets, by data type.

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

Longitudinal studies involve repeated observations of the same subjects, allowing researchers to analyse change at the individual level.

The UK is home to several key longitudinal studies, including major panel and internationally-renowned cohort studies.

- [Discover data](#) from longitudinal studies
- [Discover case studies](#) relating to longitudinal studies


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### 2011 CENSUS

The population census is a vital resource for social scientific research and policy development, providing a snapshot of demographic and social life in the UK that helps inform government

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# Survey Microdata

- Individual or household level data which have been anonymised to prevent disclosure
- Needs to be analysed using an analyses package such as SPSS or Stata
- Very flexible as you can produce your own populations and tables.



# Large-scale UK surveys

- General Lifestyle Survey (General Household Survey)
- Labour Force Survey
- Health Survey for England/Wales/Scotland
- Living Costs and Food Survey (Expenditure and Food Survey)
- Crime Survey for England and Wales (British Crime Survey)
- Family Resources Survey
- Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (ONS Opinions Survey, ONS Omnibus Survey)
- English Housing Survey (Survey of English Housing)
- British Social Attitudes
- National Travel Survey



# Longitudinal data

- Longitudinal surveys involve repeated surveys of the same individuals at different points in time
- Allow researchers to analyse change at the individual level
- More complex to manage and analyse



# Longitudinal data

Range of longitudinal data collections, but 9 'core' collections in particular:

- National Child Development Study (NCDS)
- 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70)
- Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)
- British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)
- Understanding Society (UKHLS)
- Families and Children Study (FACS)
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)
- Longitudinal Study of Young people in England (LSYPE)
- Growing Up in Scotland (GUS)

# The UK Household Longitudinal Study

- Started in 2009: UKHLS or 'Understanding Society' ; First data: 2010, 3 waves so far
- Study of the socio-economic circumstances and attitudes of 100,000 individuals in 40,000 British households, largest household panel survey in the world
- UKLHS replaces and incorporates the BHPS (1991-2009 , 5500 household's), retaining the latter's longevity whilst adding
  - to the sample size
  - to the scope of the study (new components: innovation panel, greater detail on ethnic minority groups, qualitative and biomedical data collections)
- coverage includes:  
current employment and earnings; employment status; parenting and childcare arrangements; family networks; benefit payments; political party identification; household finances; environmental behaviours; consents to administrative data linkage (health and education).



# International data

International data is split into two types of data:

- Aggregate or macrodata  
... data that has been aggregated to a country or regional level. This type of data is typically produced by inter-governmental organisations like the UN or World Bank. All the aggregate databanks contain time series data.
- Survey or microdata  
... data about individuals. This type of data is typically produced by an organisation in the academic sector and looks at values and attitudes.

# International macrodata

- time series data aggregated to country/region
- regularly updated
- international governmental organisations (IMF, OECD, IEA, World Bank)
- wide range of socio-economic topics
- only available to staff and students from UK institutions of higher and further education (World Bank data is open access)



# International data themes

Databanks cover:

- Economic performance and development
- Trade, industry and markets
- Employment
- Demography, migration and health
- Governance
- Human development
- Social expenditure
- Education
- Science and technology
- Land use and the environment



# Links with other data archives worldwide

CESSDA -  
Council  
of  
European  
Social  
Science  
Data  
Archives

Non-  
European:  
ICPSR,  
ASSDA



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# Qualitative data

The UK Data Service collections contain examples from a range of qualitative methods including:

- interview transcripts
- visual data
- focus groups
- essays
- diaries
- online data
- observation notes
- documents
- audio data
- newspaper clippings

etc.

Interview transcripts are the most commonly deposited qualitative data with the UK Data Archive.

Most contemporary data is deposited in a digital form, but we also hold (and sometimes digitise) legacy data which is a paper (handwritten or typewritten) format.



# Qualitative data

## Example

Ray Pahl, SN 4867: [School Leavers Study](#), 1978

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.

**The resulting data:** 142 handwritten essays in 1978 by school leavers aged 15 and 16 years old.

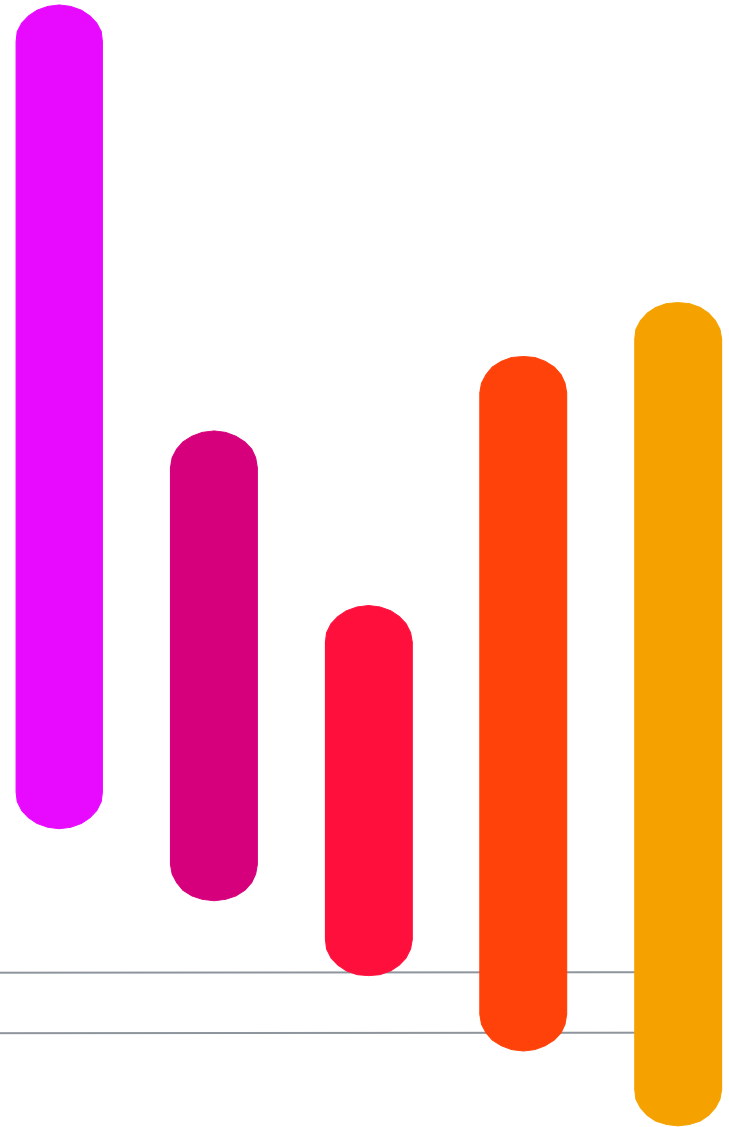
# UK census data

- 1971-2011 census data
- gold standard
- used as baseline for other statistics
- detailed combinations of characteristics
- small geographies
- census outputs
  - Aggregate data
  - Boundary data
  - Flow data
  - Microdata
- restricted to UK higher/further education staff and students, except for the microdata



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# Finding and accessing data



# Data access

- Web access to data and metadata via the UK Data Service web pages
- Documentation (codebooks, questionnaires) freely available to anyone browsing the web pages
- Data are freely available for use in higher education institutions
- Data supplied in a variety of formats
  - statistical package formats (e.g. SPSS, STATA)
  - databases and spreadsheets
  - word processed documents, PDF documents etc.



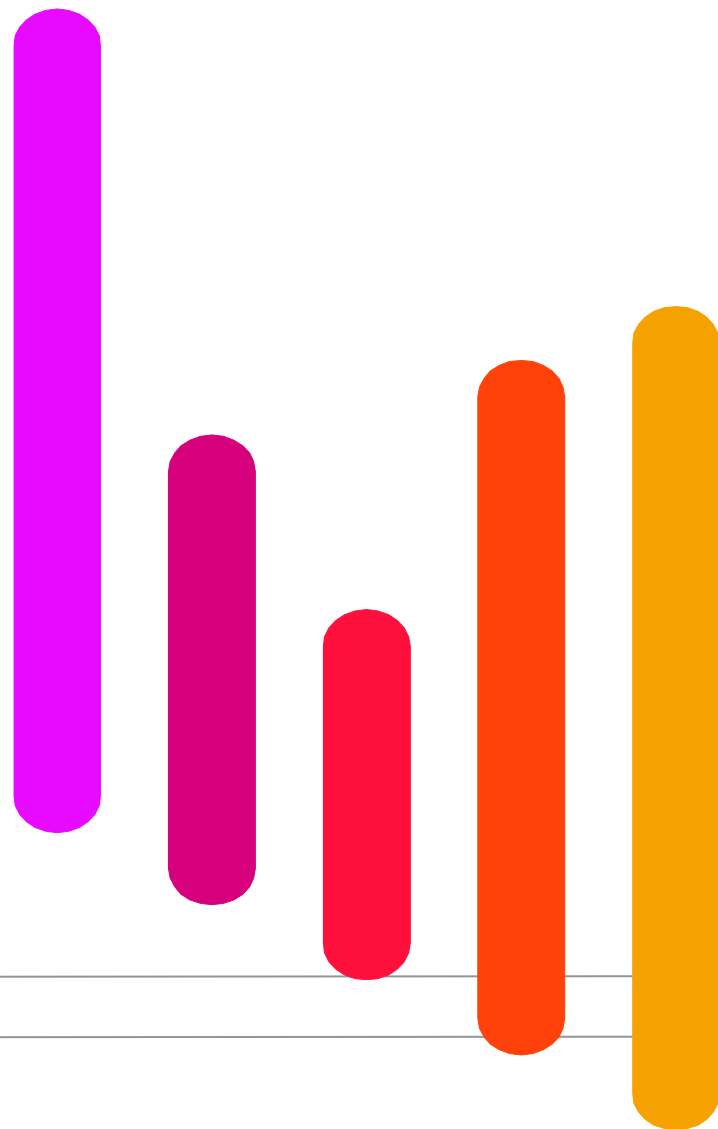
# Accessing data - step by step

- Click on the 'login' link on the UK Data Service homepage
- Click on 'login to the UK Data Service'
- Find your university in the list of institutions and proceed to the login page (or your UK Data Archive credentials if you are not at a UK University)
- Enter your login details
- Complete the registration form as a new user
- Accept the End User Licence
- Select the desired data from the Data Catalogue by clicking on the 'Download/Order' button
- Specify a project for which the data is to be used (minimum: 30 word description)
- Then:
  - download the data to local machine selecting your preferred format (SPSS, STATA, TAB etc.)



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# Resources and help



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# User support and resources

- Help desk, individual user support
- Promotional events/ workshops
- Teaching data and resources
- User guides/ thematic guides
- Online data analysis
- Advice on creating and managing data
- Webinars
- Case studies



# Interview methods

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● Interview methods

Qualitative interviews

Ethical reuse

Structured interviews

Semi-structured interviews

Unstructured interviews

Feminist interviews

Life story interviews

Oral history

Psychosocial interviews

Teaching activities

References

Acknowledgements

Non-interview methods


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Home > Teaching resources > Interview methods

## Teaching resource: Interview methods

"Illustrating interview methods using our extensive data collection"



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Interviewing is a frequently used method in social research with its suitability being entirely dependent on the particular research question. Qualitative interviewing is generally distinguished from questionnaire-based interviewing, even if the form of communication, such as face-to face conversation, may be the same.

This teaching resource provides instructors and students with materials designed to assist in teaching qualitative interviewing.

The UK Data Service has created this resource to illustrate interview methods using its extensive data collection held as part of the UK Data Archive holdings, and, in particular, to assist instructors who have limited research materials of their own.

Tuesday 17 December 2013


UKDS.Stat, Beyond 20/20 and IMF eLibrary Text Collection interfaces may be unavailable from 07.00 to 10.15 for maintenance.

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## 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 contact us by selecting one of the short web forms available from [Help](#).

Login and registration	<b>Find and Access</b>	Secure Access	Download and data formats	Use data
Publication	Manage data	Deposit data	ESRC Data Store	ESDS users



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**Questions about how to find and access data**

- [How do I find a particular dataset?](#)
- [How do I find studies on a particular subject?](#)
- [Who can access the data?](#)
- [Who can access census data?](#)
- [How do I access the data?](#)
- [What formats are the data available in?](#)
- [How do I download/order data?](#)
- [How much will it cost?](#)

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# Contact

- Enquiries/ Help Desk:

<http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/help/get-in-touch.aspx>

[help@ukdataservice.ac.uk](mailto:help@ukdataservice.ac.uk)

- Follow us on:

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<https://www.facebook.com/UKDataService>

<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=UKDATASERVICE>

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# Questions?

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