Irish Qualitative Data Archive

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Session-δ: Preserving and organising qualitative social science data resources for sharing and re-use
Irish Qualitative Data Archive

Background

Established 2007 under PRTLI4

Housed in National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth

Objectives

Provide central access point for qualitative social science data produced in Ireland

Establish standards and protocols for archiving

Provide teaching resources especially in research methods

Access

Online access via www.iqda.ie

Knowledge transfer through workshops, online teaching tools, best practice data management guidelines
**Establishment:** Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTLI4)

**Currently:** Digital Repository of Ireland under PRTLI5

**Funding IQDA**

**Core funding**

**Project funding**

**RACcER (2009-2010)**
- Funded by Irish Research Council and Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative
- Key Output: Best practice handbook on archiving qualitative data

**Family Rhythms (2012)**
- Funded by Irish Research Council
- Key Output: Textbook, and postgraduate module on Sociology of the Family, data transfer workshops on secondary analysis
IQDA Data (so far)

**Qualicat**

Catalogue of qualitative research produced in Ireland

488 metadata records about Irish qualitative research projects (from PhDs to national longitudinal research)

**Qualibase**

Archived data that is available for re-use

10 major datasets currently available for re-use or in preparation for archiving
### Existing metadata standards for IQDA

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Existing metadata standards for IQDA

Growing Up in Ireland – National Longitudinal Study of Children

Title: Growing Up in Ireland – National Longitudinal Study of Children

Keywords: Children, Families, Health, Leisure time activities, Life satisfaction, Neighbourhoods, Parent-child relationship, Parental role, Peer-group relationship, Personal identity

Description of Project/Abstract: Growing Up in Ireland (GGI) is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland, launched in 2006. The main aim of the study is to describe the status of two representative samples of children in Ireland and how they are developing in the current social, economic, and cultural environment. This information will be used to assist in policy formulation and in the provision of services which will ensure that all children will have the best possible start in life. The study incorporates a mixed methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods, to gain a holistic understanding of children’s lives in Ireland. The first phase of the study extends over seven years and follows the progress of two groups of children: 8,000 nine-year-olds and 10,000 nine-month-olds. During this time two waves of quantitative data will be conducted with each group of children. Smaller scale qualitative studies, each involving 120 families drawn from the main cohorts, take place shortly after each sweep. The data in this archive are from the first wave of qualitative research conducted between April and August 2008 with a sample of 120 families from the nine-year cohort of GGI.

Language: English

Publications / Bibliography:

Country: Ireland

Geographical Location: Border (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, Sligo), Dublin Region (Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin), Mid East (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow), Mid West (Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary), Midlands (Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath), South East (Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford), South West (Cork, Kerry), West (Galway, Mayo, Roscommon)
Performance of IQDA in a current data re-use project: *Family Rhythms*

**Research Question:**
“How have the texture, meanings and rhythms of family life changed in modern Ireland?”

- How have the networks of relationships and meanings associated with ‘family’ changed across lives and times?

- How have family practices been transformed, especially in relation to key life transitions such as leaving home and becoming a parent?

- Have the contours of ‘displaying’ family – that is, confirming the quality of family relationships to oneself and others (Finch 2007) - changed over time, and if so, how?
Performance of IQDA: *Family Rhythms*

Data needed:
- Contains information about family life
- Qualitative: To see meanings, practices, displays
- Longitudinal: Cohorts from significant eras in Irish social life
- Representative: Linked to quant national sample

- **Growing Up in Ireland – National Longitudinal Study of Children**
  122 nine-year-old children and their parents selected by stratified random sampling from the Child Cohort of Growing Up in Ireland (national survey) x parent and child interview

- **Life Histories and Social Change in 20th Century Ireland**
  113 respondents who participated in all eight waves of the ‘Living in Ireland Survey’ that formed part of the European Community Household Panel study, three birth cohorts: those born before 1935, between 1945 and 1954, and between 1965 and 1974
Performance of IQDA: *Family Rhythms*

**Problems encountered**
- Secondary users of data created to answer a different research question
- Very large combined dataset of 357 interviews (long interviews)
- Two datasets with two different research methodologies

**Solutions we used**
- Comprehensive archiving documentation
- Documentation created during research process (although not standardised)
- Lexical searching in MAXQDA
Performance of IQDA: *Family Rhythms*

**Lessons for IQDA**

- Description of what is inside dataset
- Burden on depositor - offputting
- Levels of access - balancing this with ethical issues of decontextualising data
- Archiving of contextual documentation as standard practice
Digital Repository of Ireland: stakeholder interviews. Visit: www.dri.ie

User Map

Orange: we begun interviewing
Yellow: we have yet to interview
Digital Repository of Ireland: Demonstrator Project by IQDA

Data enhancement project based on existing oral and life history data with data contributed by members of public

What we want to provide:
- Enhanced searching, browsing, retrieval and visualization of data
- Dynamic interface allowing members of public to upload their own stories