Improving the visibility of data: a case study on an international birth cohort survey

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Overview

• An introduction to the UK Data Service
• An introduction to ‘Young Lives’
• Working with the depositors
• Impact
• Summary and conclusions
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
- Data support for research and teaching
- Training and guidance
Research data lifecycle

http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/lifecycle.aspx
How we curate data

• Transfer of data
• Processing
  • Assigning a standard
  • Data processing
  • Documentation processing
  • Metadata creation
  • Additional documentation
• Publishing data
• Delivering data
• Preserving data

• Creation of additional resources…
Supporting our data users

- Resource discovery
  - Discover
  - Variable and Question Bank
- Resources for students – getting started, FAQs
- Online guides – datasets, topics, methods
- Tutorials – videos on access and analysis
- Themes – finding data on particular subjects
- Advice and training – how to find out more
- Highlighting popular data series
  - ESDS ‘Major Studies’
  - UK Data Service ‘Key Data’
Data support resources

Use data

"Information, training and support for our users"

Behind everything we do is the desire to see data used to its maximum potential. To help you to make best use of our collection we offer resources and support for users.

This section contains information on:

- advice and support, including information about our helpdesk and training
- a number of guides, video tutorials and pointers to other useful information
- examples of how the data have been used by others
- information and resources designed for teachers and learners

GOT A GOOD IDEA? WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT

If you have resources to share, suggestions or questions let us know. The best way to contact us is through our help page.

http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data.aspx
ESDS – Major studies

Major studies

These pages list our most popular datasets including the datasets supported by the specialist ESDS services.

- ESDS Government datasets
- ESDS International datasets
- ESDS Longitudinal datasets
- Selected ESDS Qualidata datasets
- Other popular datasets
- A-Z list

ESDS Government datasets

- Annual Population Survey
- British Social Attitudes Survey / Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey / Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey / Scottish Social Attitudes Survey / Young People’s Social Attitudes
- Crime Survey for England and Wales (formerly British Crime Survey) / Scottish Crime and Justice Survey
- English Housing Survey / Survey of English Housing
- European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
- Family Expenditure Survey / Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey
- Family Resources Survey
- General Lifestyle Survey (formerly General Household Survey) / Continuous Household Survey (Northern Ireland)
- Health Survey for England / Welsh Health Survey / Scottish Health Survey
- Households Below Average Income
- Integrated Household Survey
- Labour Force Survey / Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey
- Life Opportunities Survey
- Living Costs and Food Survey (formerly Expenditure and Food Survey)
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

These UK surveys can be used to produce national estimates.

They can all be used to describe a population at one point in time and most can be used to compare populations at more than one time point. Many large surveys that are used to inform policy.

- Discover data from UK surveys
- Discover case studies relating to UK surveys

Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey (APS) combines data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and national boosts. Datasets contain 12 months of data and responses from 155,000 households and 360,000 people. It thus improves intercensal monitoring of key variables for a range of policy purposes.

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 3,000 respondents annually and questions repeated periodically.
Young Lives

- The Young Lives study began in 2002
- An innovative long-term project investigating the changing nature of childhood poverty
- 12,000 children in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam
- To improve understanding of the causes and consequences of childhood poverty
- Life-course, inequality, education, health
- Sponsored by the Department for International Development and conducted by the Young Lives team based at the University of Oxford
- http://www.younglives.org.uk/
Young Lives

Young Lives is an international study of childhood poverty, involving 12,000 children in 4 countries over 15 years. It is led by a team in the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford in association with research and policy partners in the 4 study countries: Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam.

Through researching different aspects of children's lives, we seek to improve policies and programmes for children.

"We need to end child poverty in order to break the cycle of poverty."

What we do  |  Where we work  |  Our themes  |  What's new
---|---|---|---
Discover more about the unique, multidisciplinary nature of the Young Lives project and its work  |  Find out more about our 4 diverse cultural, geographic, economic and political study contexts  |  Explore our work by themes that are central to children and young people's lives in the modern world  |  Blog: Inequality starts at a young age  
15 May 2015
New working paper: Learning
Young Lives and ESDS

- First released in 2006 and used by 10 researchers
- In 2007 the survey became a ‘Major Study’ with its own suite of specialist web pages
Working with depositors

• Maintaining contact with depositors for more than just usage information
  • Fortunate timing
  • We invited the Young Lives data manager and communications manager to participate in conversations we were having with depositors of UK longitudinal data to look at ways of promoting some data collections

• Quid pro quo
• Depositors want to see their data highlighted
• In turn they present at our user conferences, improve documentation and create new resources
Enhancing ‘Young Lives’ data

• Promotion to Major Study status
  • Increased visibility online and in printed materials

• As data use grew this lead to
  • Teaching dataset
  • Inclusion on our Nesstar server to allow for easier online browsing and analysis

• Continued engagement and support of the data depositors
Young Lives: an International Study of Childhood Poverty

SERIES ABSTRACT
The Young Lives study, which began in 2002, is an innovative long-term project investigating the changing nature of childhood poverty in four developing countries. The purpose of the project is to improve understanding of the causes and consequences of childhood poverty and examine how policies affect children’s well-being, in order to inform the development of future policy and to target child welfare interventions more effectively. The study is being conducted in Ethiopia, India (in the Andhra Pradesh state), Peru and Vietnam. It is sponsored by the Department for International Development and conducted by the Young Lives team based at the University of Oxford.

DATA ACCESS
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Statistics

Number of researchers accessing Young Lives data

Promoted to Major Study

Deposit of new data
Demonstrating impact

- Continued growth in access
  - Made easier through teaching dataset and addition to Nesstar
- Increased use in the countries under study, especially Peru and India
- Highlighting publications via the catalogue records in Discover and linking to Young Lives
A ‘good news’ story

• Take opportunities to work with depositors
  • We have seen similar impact with other depositors e.g. the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to the Families and Children Study

• Engagement is necessary on both sides

• The benefits are mutual, the circle is virtuous
  • Depositors receive more publicity and visibility
  • Increased visibility leads to increased data use in existing and new user groups
  • More research projects, more publications
  • Demonstrates impact for the depositors and impact for the UK Data Service
  • Win, win!
Questions