# Using Data in Research

Library Data Archive Fall Quarter 2017

# Today's Topics

- UCLA Library Data Archives
- The role of data in your researchHow to search for and acess data for research
- Resources, tools and support available to students at UCLA
- Publishing and Data Management Plans

# **UCLA Library Data Archives**

#### (formally the Social Science Data Archive)

- On the UCLA campus since 1961 About the Data Archive
- Available to all UCLA faculty and students
- Holdings include public opinion polls, census data, crime stats, political and social behavior, etc.



https://www.library.ucla.edu/location/social-science-data-archive

### Data Archive: Our services

- Reference: assist students to find and use data
- Data Management Plans
- Metadata
- Provide training: Software/Library carpentry / Software Carpentry R-language



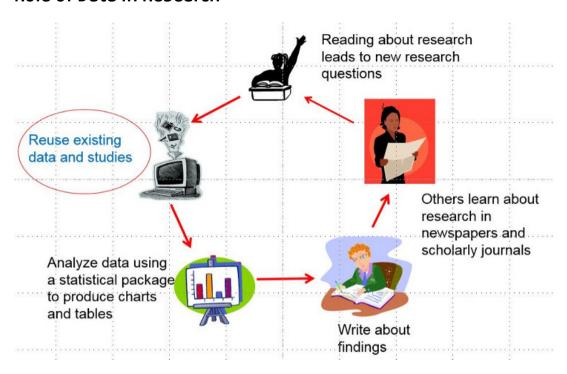




• Host events and lectures: Data Archive News and Upcoming Events

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### Role of Data in Research



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# Finding Out About Data Sources

- UCLA Library Data Archive
- Colleagues
- Public media (newspapers, news)Social media (twitter, etc)
- Scholarly literature
- Government reports and documentsArchives and project websites
- Codebooks, questionnaires
- Exploration of datasets

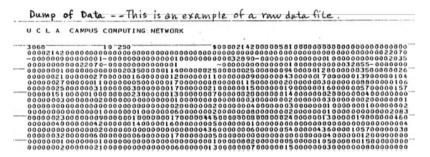
# Search Strategies and Defining Your Research

- General to specific; broad to narrow
- Names of investigators; names of studies
- Studies described in literature, news and websites

Geography	Physical areas		Governm units	Government units		Political boundaries		Other – school districts, etc.	
Time period	Curr		nt	Historical		Ove		er time	
•	Gendage,	etc. e	er, Race, tc. ethnicity, ancestry, etc.		Persons		Household		Other – schools, hospitals, etc.
Context		What is your hypothesis? What will the data tell you? How will you interpret it?							
Variables in dataset		What variables do you need to answer your research question?							

### How do I know this study useful?

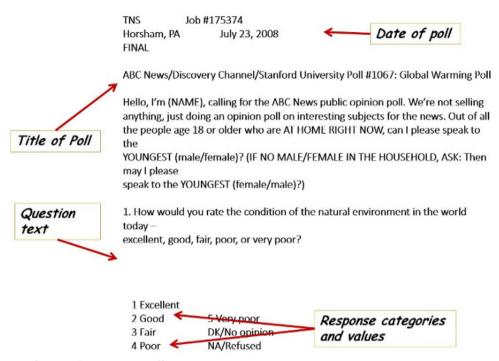
- Raw data are **not** eye-readable
- To decipher data you will use Questionnaires and Codebooks



### What is a Questionnaire?

- A **questionnaire** is a *research instrument* consisting of a series of *questions* and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents.
- Questionnaires cover separate topics such as:
  - Preferences (e.g. political party)
  - Behaviors (e.g. food consumption)
  - o Facts (e.g. gender)
- Questionnaires can include indexes or scales:
  - Latent traits (e.g. personality traits)
  - Attitudes (e.g. towards immigration)
  - An index (e.g. Social Economic Status)

### Questionnaire: ABC New Poll



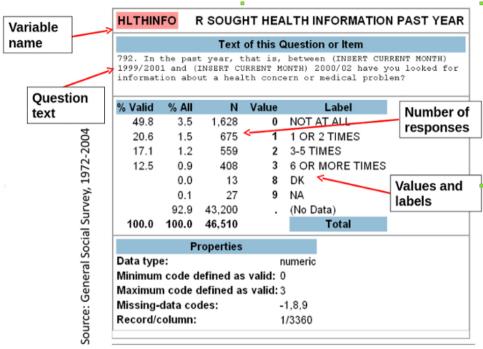
### What is a Codebook?

- An overview of the study or dataset
- Variable names and descriptions
- Column locations (mostly this is for raw data)

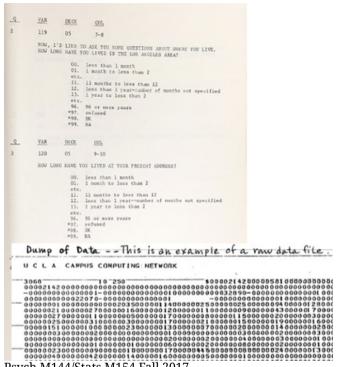
#### May also include:

- Test of questions if the data comes from a survey
- Example of the Questionnaire
- Detail on who responded to the survey

### Codebook: General Social Survey



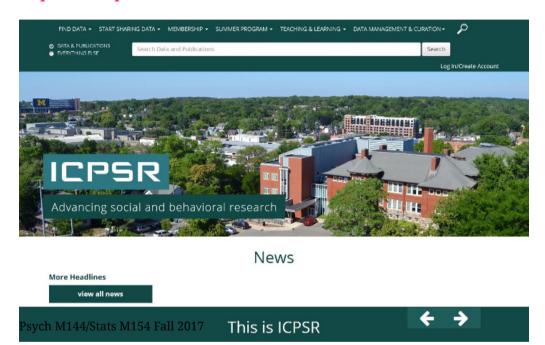
#### Codebook and Raw Data



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### **ICPSR Data Site**

# Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research <a href="http://www.icpsr.umich.edu">http://www.icpsr.umich.edu</a>



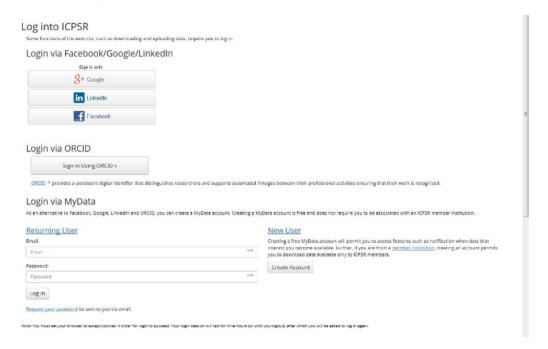
#### ICPSR: Find Data

#### http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR



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# ICPSR: Register to Access Data



# ICPSR: Search by Topics

#### Browse by Topic

Users have two options for identifying studies related to a particular topic.

- . Topic Classifications address topics broadly, and are meant to be a good starting point for exploring the collection.
- . The Thesaurus contains both broad and narrow terms that are more specific to the subject matter of individual studies.
- . Our Thematic Collections are full websites that focus on particular subject areas.

#### Topic Classifications

```
I. Census Enumerations: Historical and Contemporary Population Characteristics
      A. United States
             1. Decennial Censuses
                   a. 1790-1960 Censuses
                   b. 1970 Census
                    c. 1980 Census
                   d. 1990 Census
                    e. 2000 Census
                    f. 2010 Census
             2. American Housing Survey Series
             3. Current Population Survey Series
             4. Other Census, Including County and City Data Books
       B. Nations Other Than the United States
II. Community and Urban Studies
       A. Studies of Local Politics
             1. United States
             2. Nations Other Than the United States
      B. Detroit Area Studies
      C. Historical Urban and Community Structure Studies
III. Conflict, Aggression, Violence, Wars
      A. Conflict and Stability Within Nations
```

B. Conflict Between and Among Nations

IV. Economic Behavior and Attitudes A Continuing Spring of Consumus Systems

### ICPSR: Search for and Compare Variables

#### Search/Compare Variables

The Social Science Variables Database (SSVD) enables ICPSR users to examine and compare variables and questions across studies or series. The SSVD currently includes over 4 million variables, representing about 76% of ICPSR's holdings that have quantitative data described in statistical syntax.

The SSVD does not include our entire collection. For a comprehensive search of all datasets, use our <u>main data search</u>, which indexes all of the documentation available for our studies, including the variable descriptions.



- Browse by Study
- Browse by Series

#### Comparing Variables

Compare variables using the checkboxes and the "Compare" button on the search results page.



#### Search Tips

 Enter words or strings that are likely to appear in a variable name, label, question, and value labels:

Presidential election will return variables dealing with all presidential elections

Presidential election Obama will return only variables dealing with the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections

 Use quotes to search for specific phrases:

"life satisfaction" "minority rights" "community programs"

 The minus sign may be used to remove certain types of results:

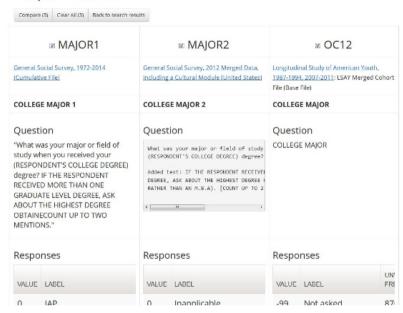
"Presidential debate" - "Bill Clinton" will eliminate the debates from 1992 and 1996 In which Clinton participated

- A Boolean "and" is implied in the search.
- The search automatically does stemming (<u>more</u> <u>info</u> <sup>a</sup>); there's no need to type in an asterisk. It's also

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# **ICPSR: Compare Variables**

#### Compare Variables



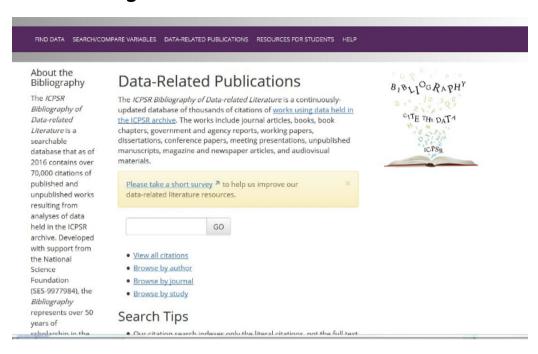
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# ICPSR: Study Page and Data

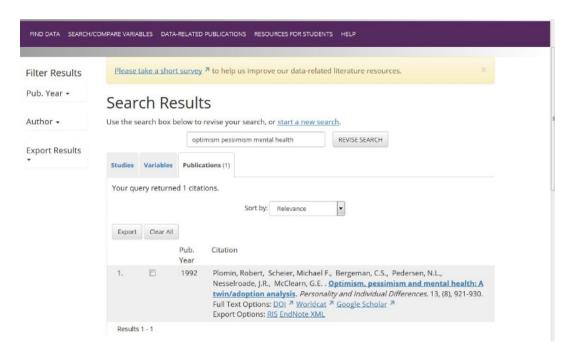


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### ICPSR: Reading About Data



### ICPSR: Publications linked to Data



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#### ICPSR: Publications Linked to Data

FIND DATA SEARCH/COMPARE VARIABLES DATA-RELATED PUBLICATIONS RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS HELP

Please take a short survey 7 to help us improve our data-related literature resources.

#### Citation

The following citation is from the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-related Literature:

Plomin, Robert, Scheier, Michael F., Bergeman, C.S., Pedersen, N.L., Nesselroade, J.R., McClearn, G.E., Aug 1992. Opt pessimism and mental health: A twin/adoption analysis. *Personality and Individual Differences.* 13, (8), 921-930.

doi:10.1016/0191-8869(92)90009-E

Full Text Options: DOI MorldCat Google Scholar

Export Citation: RIS EndNote XML

#### **Related Studies**

This publication is related to the following dataset(s):

Swedish Adoption/Twin Study on Aging (SATSA), 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 2004, 2007, and 2010

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#### **Data Sources**

- ICPSR: http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/
- UCLA Library Data Archive Catalog: https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/ssda\_ucla
- Government Sites, Census Data: https://www.census.gov/
- IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series): https://www.ipums.org/
- Public Policy Institute of CA: www.ppic.org
- NBER (National Bureau of Economic Research): http://www.nber.org/data/
- CDC/NCHS (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/surveys.htm
- Pew Research Center: http://www.pewresearch.org/
- Data.gov: https://www.data.gov/

# Data Management Plans

- What is a Data Management Plans
- Why do I need this?What tools are available to help?

# What is a Data Management Plan?

A data management plan is a document that describes what you will do with your data *during* your research and *after* you complete your research.

# Why do you need this?

- Funding Agencies
- Publishing https://dataden.library.ucla.edu/jspui/ ORCID:https://orcid.org/
- Sharing and Archiving Data
- Regardless of the requirements, good data management is an essential skill for researchers.

# Getting Help with Data Management Plans

- Data Archive
- ICPSR

# Questions?



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# Problems?

# The Data Archive is here to help

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Tim Dennis, Director of the Data Archive Jamie Jamison, Archive Staff

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