Social Science Data Archives

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http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/issr/da  
http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/seminars/DataArchives/default.htm
About the Data Archive

• Who are we?

• How do we help?

• What’s in the collection?
What are data files and how are they used in research?

- Conducting surveys vs. secondary analysis
- Replication, hypothesis testing, methodology, populations, longitudinal and x-sectional
When is data useful for research?

- Raw data
- Tables
- Publications
What does data look like?

Example of a dump of a file. Shows how data appears on a magnetic tape.
### Table 1
How California voters divide when offered three sets of U.S. options regarding Persian Gulf-Iraq crisis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Attack</th>
<th>Wait</th>
<th>Pull</th>
<th>Wait</th>
<th>Attack</th>
<th>Pull</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 or older</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Differences between the sum of each pairing's percentages and 100% equal the proportion of people with no opinion.)
VARIABLE 21 PERSIAN GULF CRISIS-ATTACK OR PULL OUT  DECK 1/36

11. REGARDING THE PERSIAN GULF CRISIS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COURSES OF ACTION THAT THE U.S. COULD TAKE. SUPPOSE OUR choices WERE TO ATTACK IRAQ AND ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A quick resolution of the crisis, or pull out our military forces. IF THESE WERE THE ONLY OPTIONS, WHICH COURSE SHOULD WE FOLLOW -- LAUNCH AN ATTACK OR PULL OUT OUR MILITARY FORCES?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N OF CASES</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
<th>VALUE LABEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>552</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>LAUNCH AN ATTACK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>333</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>PULL OUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>NO OPINION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1021</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. SUPPOSE THE CHOICE WE HAD WAS TO EITHER ATTACK IRAQ AND ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A QUICK RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS OR KEEP OUR TROOPS THERE AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS TO WORK AGAINST IRAQ. IF THESE WERE THE ONLY OPTIONS, WHICH COURSE SHOULD WE FOLLOW -- LAUNCH AN ATTACK OR TRY TO WAIT OUT IRAQ AND SADDAM HUSSEIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N OF CASES</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
<th>VALUE LABEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>LAUNCH AN ATTACK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>734</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>WAIT OUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>NO OPINION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1021</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study: 9005  
Date: 1990  
UNIVERSE:  
INTERVIEWING PERIODS:  
METHOD OF INTERVIEW:  
NUMBER OF CASES: 1021  
CARDS PER CASE: 5  

CALIFORNIANS REGISTERED TO VOTE  
OCTOBER 4-10 1990  
TELEPHONE  

VARIABLE 23 PERSIAN GULF CRISIS-PULL OUT OR WAIT OUT DECK 1/38

13. SUPPOSE OUR CHOICES WERE TO PULL OUT OUR MILITARY FORCES OR KEEP OUR TROOPS THERE AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO ALLOW TIME FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS TO WORK AGAINST IRAQ. IF THESE WERE THE ONLY OPTIONS WHICH COURSE SHOULD WE FOLLOW -- PULL OUT OUR MILITARY FORCES OR TRY TO WAIT OUT IRAQ AND SADDAM HUSSEIN?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N OF CASES</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
<th>VALUE LABEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>PULL OUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>804</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>WAIT OUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>NO OPINION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1021</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do I find data?

- Geography
- Time
- Population
- Search Engines
What else do I need to know?

- Units of analysis
- Types of variables
- Data Structures
Units of analysis

- Persons
- Households
- Events
- Records
  - Official
  - Civil
Types of variables

- Alpha/Character vs. Numeric
- Continuous vs Discrete
- Summary/Aggregate vs Micro
Data Structures

- Rectangular
- Hierarchical
- Relational
### Rectangular

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do I know it's useful?

Questionnaires

Codebooks
How many times per week do you eat 6 ounces or more of a lean white meat, such as white or dark meat poultry, or fish, not including shellfish?

(O TO 14 POSSIBLE)

88 DON’T KNOW
99 REFUSED

INTERVIEWER:  THIS IS IN A TYPICAL WEEK

VALID RESPONSES:  0, 88, 99, 1-14

BRANCHING:  Go to XW19
Welcome to the ISSR Data Archives Home Page. This page is primarily set up to allow our users (namely, UCLA students and faculty) to have an idea of what files we keep at the Archive. If you cannot find something on our site that you feel is essential, send an email message to libbie@ucla.edu. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/issr/da
ICPSR - - Mega Data Site

• Searching
• Choosing
• Downloading
• On-line analysis

• Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research - - http://www.icpsr.umich.edu
What’s at ICPSR?

- **Search strategy**
- **Terminology**
- **Word vs phrase**
- **Data holdings vs web site**
- **Search fields**
What does a search tell me?

- Reviewing search results
- Study information — codebooks
- Other study links
- Relevance to search terms
- Symbols
Getting Your Data

- ICPSR Direct
- Bruin-online accounts
- Working from home
- Restricted data
Downloading Data

- Help with Downloads
- How to Download

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/help/data-help.html
On-line Data Analysis - DAS

- Wide variety of studies
- Useful as teaching tool
- On-line codebook browsing
- Eases use of data
Problems?

• The Archive is here to help
• CD’s and other materials
• Technical assistance
• Statistical help