

UK DAtabytes

The Newsletter of the UK Data Archive

No. 5

UK Time Use Survey now available

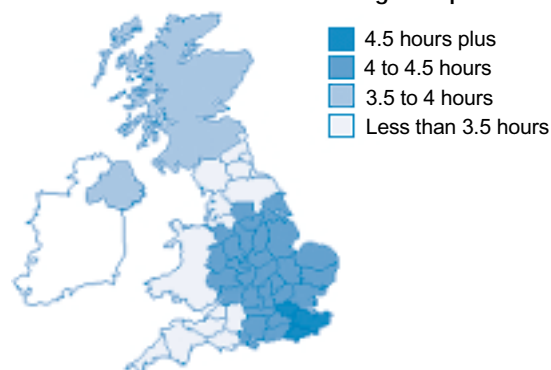
Have you ever argued with your partner or housemates about who does more than their fair share of housework? Does it seem to you that kids today spend far too much time watching TV and playing video games? Does it feel like your daily commute is getting longer and longer?

Now you can find out if your perceptions are part of larger national trends. The Office for National Statistics has recently deposited with the UKDA the United Kingdom Time Use Survey 2000 (SN:4504), the first large-scale study of how we use our time in this country. The study is available for academic data analysts, exclusively from the UKDA.

There has been an increasing interest in time use studies and the information they produce. How we choose to spend our time is one of the main factors that shape our lives, and time use studies provide an opportunity to measure these choices and the routine of everyday life. The way in which these choices affect time use has important implications for public policy, in particular in areas of employment, social security, childcare, labour market, transport policy, health and education. The range of the survey is very broad and its implications will be felt at both local and national level.

The United Kingdom Time Use Survey 2000 is the first large-scale study of its kind to be conducted in this country. Previous time use studies have been conducted in Britain; for example in 1995 OPCS (now the Office for

Commuting time per week



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National Statistics) carried out an Omnibus 'simple' diary exercise (held at UKDA under SN:3951). An up-to-date catalogue of time use surveys conducted around the world is available on the ISER web site at: www.iser.essex.ac.uk/mtus/technical.php

Further information on the findings of the 2000 survey is available from the ONS web site at: www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/social_finances/timeusesurvey/default.asp

For more information about the United Kingdom Time Use Survey 2000 and how to acquire the data for secondary analysis, visit the UKDA web site at: www.data-archive.ac.uk

Exchange for Learning Programme award

The UKDA, together with the University of Essex Department of Government and the Colchester Sixth Form College, has been successful in winning £88,000 of funding as one of 22 national lead projects for the JISC Exchange for Learning Programme (X4L).

Through a number of strategic investments by both the JISC and the ESRC, the UK academic community has access to a unique and expansive range of digital data resources. Whilst individual datasets are used extensively in academic research they are significantly underused in learning and teaching programmes within HE, and rarely used in FE.

As a national JISC Service provider the UKDA is in a strong position to offer its resources to the learning and teaching communities for developing packaged resources. In turn it needs the advice and input from instructors in the classroom on how to re-purpose and apply the content. It is widely recognised by HEFCE, ESRC and JISC that the skills shortage for quantitative analysis is now critical, and introducing such concepts early on in post-16

education is one way to redress this shortage.

This project will draw together a small team of academics, teachers and data archivists/disseminators in order to create and pilot web-based teaching and learning materials. Based upon British Election Study data, which provide a unique source of information for students wishing to explore a range of contemporary political issues in Britain, the resources aim to transfer key skills at HE and FE levels in relation to the understanding of statistical data and analysis as they relate to substantive issues. The project will begin in January 2003 for 18 months.

The X4L Programme comprises partnerships between more than 100 institutions and teams and involving colleges, universities, libraries, JISC services, local authorities and commercial companies. One of the broader aims of the Programme is to create an open Development Bay, enabling all members of the FE and HE communities to benefit from the work of the X4L project teams. Further details of awards can be found at: www.jisc.ac.uk/dner/development/programmes/x4l.html

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Major new BBC TV series to use qualitative collection

One of the many collections of qualitative research deposited with Qualidata is soon to form the basis of a new BBC television series. Annette Lawson's study, *Adultery, An Analysis of Love and Betrayal*, conducted between 1981-83, centred on six hundred women and men, either married or involved in long-term, live-in relationships. It used structured questionnaires, individual interviews and small group discussions to examine the views, motivations and experiences of respondents affected by extra-marital affairs. Although Lawson used the data for a number of publications, including a book in 1983, this collection, housed in the Albert Sloman Library Special Collections at the University of Essex, continues to be regularly re-used by academics and researchers.



Dr. Amanda Vickery

The 'Trouble with Love', a flagship six-part Open University/BBC television production traces the development of ideas of love, romance, sex and marriage over the last thousand years. The series is presented by Dr Amanda Vickery, co-director of the Bedford Centre for the History of Women at the University of London and draws on key qualitative research methods and resources such as diaries, letters and interviews and

makes use of the Lawson material in the final episode, where the role of romantic love is examined alongside the decline of marriage. Qualidata staff worked alongside production researchers in selecting suitable letters, interview transcripts and audio recordings to be used as source material for the programme.

The first episode will be broadcast at 7.30pm on BBC2 on Monday 2 September 2002.

'The Challenge of Electronic Records' Conference

A one-day conference organised by the UKDA on behalf of the East of England Regional Archives Council (EERAC), was recently held at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

The aim of the conference was to identify issues relating to the long-term preservation and provision of access to electronic records. Aimed at both record creators and record custodians, the discussion at the meeting will inform the formulation of the future EERAC programme of activity in this area. The participants, from the East of England, were from a diverse background including record offices of the county councils, the History of Advertising Trust Archive, the British Antarctic Survey, the John Innes Centre and archivists from several Cambridge colleges.

Speakers at the conference included Ellis Weinberger of Cambridge University Library, Neil Beagrie of the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC), David Ryan of the Public Record Office (PRO) and Philip Lord formerly of GlaxoSmithKline.

The talks explained the issues involved in preserving electronic records, and how these issues are being addressed by the DPC and PRO in preparation for the Government target of all government organisations managing their records electronically by 2004. A general conclusion from the meeting was that whereas various initiatives are addressing the problems of digital preservation and access at a national level, the problem for local government authorities, regional archives and smaller organisations presented a major challenge, which could be resolved by the sharing of expertise, experience and resources.

QUALIDATA News

Advice sought by French archivists

On 14-15 March 2002, two researchers from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris visited Qualidata. Francoise Cribier and Elise Feller have been commissioned by the French Ministry of Research to develop a case for a qualitative data archive in France, starting with a feasibility study. Qualidata serves as the only national model of qualitative data archiving in Europe. The visitors were keen to hear about Qualidata's position in the intellectual community; the attitudes and expectations of data creators; how and where data are stored; how data should be documented and ethical and legal issues regarding re-use. The visitors, both social historians, were very impressed by Qualidata's professional standards and by the quality and range of data held in the National Social Policy and Social Change Archive at the University of Essex.

Their mission is to persuade colleagues that the

preservation of the rich stock of qualitative material held across France is possible, necessary and urgent. They further aim to offer practical procedures in terms of provision of a resource discovery hub, a centralised archive and controlled access. A proposal will be made to the Ministry later this year.

France does not have a national archive for government survey data, but recently a newly-formed organisation, known as Le Centre Quetelet has been formed as a Unité Mixte de Service (UMS) of the CNRS, associated with the L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), the Institut National d'Études Démographiques (INED) and the University of Caen. The partnership will assure, support and coordinate the acquisition, processing, preservation and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data and associated metadata, as well as user support and training. The web site is currently under development and may be found at: www.centre.quetelet.cnrs.fr/

"... formulation of future EERAC programme of activity"

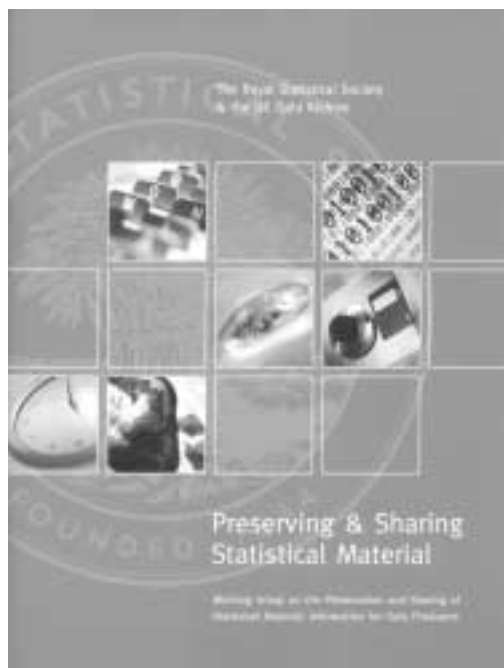
"... preservation of the rich stock of qualitative material held across France is possible, necessary and urgent"

UKDA and RSS collaborate on new publication

On 19 March the Director of the UKDA, Kevin Schürer joined the Vice President of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), Roger Jowell, at RSS headquarters to launch a booklet published jointly by the two organisations.

The UKDA worked closely with the RSS in convening and chairing a working group that prepared the text of the booklet, *Preserving & Sharing Statistical Material*. Available free of charge from both organisations, the booklet highlights the importance of strategic planning when collecting statistical material, so that it can be preserved and made available for future use. The publication has been written to raise organisational awareness of the value and benefits of preserving and sharing statistical material and to encourage more organisations to adopt an ethos of data preservation. To this end it includes a Code of Best Practice for those who are responsible for data collection, but who may lack experience of organising data preservation. The body of the booklet addresses many of the common issues and problems faced by organisations with collections of statistical material that might need to be preserved.

The UKDA welcomes this opportunity to collaborate with the RSS and believes that information of this nature needs to be readily available on the desks or bookshelves of decision-makers and key staff within organisations. Bodies such as the Statistics Commission, the Office for National Statistics, various government departments, charities and universities have expressed positive support for the publication. The information contained in the booklet should also be viewed as dynamic rather than static with respect to the climate of changing technology, data creator and user needs. In accordance, it is envisaged that the publication will be updated in line with any future changes.



Preserving & Sharing Statistical Material
ISBN: 0-906805-02-3

Available from the UKDA and the RSS and from the web sites of both organisations.

Annual CESSDA Business Meeting held in Ljubljana, Slovenia

The Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) is a federal organisation that promotes the acquisition, archiving and distribution of electronic data amongst the social science data archives of Europe. In particular it provides a set of reciprocal agreements for the exchange of data between countries and an infrastructure for shared technologies and training opportunities.

In March 2002, the directors of the respective European data archives met in Ljubljana, Slovenia, for the annual CESSDA Business Meeting hosted by the Archiv Družboslovnih Podatkov (ADP). Discussion centred on inter-working relationships between the European archives. The meeting voted to admit two new national members to CESSDA, CEPS (Centre d'Études de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Économiques) representing Luxembourg and RODA (Romanian Data Archive) at the Institute for Quality of Life Research, Bucharest. This now takes the number of countries represented within CESSDA to twenty-one.

Also discussed was the CESSDA trans-border data exchange agreement which is in need of revision in the light of technological advances in distributed data dissemination and integrated data catalogues. It was agreed that the UKDA Director should take this matter forward in the form of a working paper with draft recommendations. The relationship between CESSDA and the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), the largest social science data archive in the world, was also discussed with the new Director of ICPSR, Myron Guttman, attending CESSDA for the first time. It was agreed that CESSDA should have a full representative in ICPSR's Council, and the UKDA Director was nominated to represent CESSDA for an initial two-year period.

Census Registration Service to use Athens

The Census Registration Service, based at the UKDA, is pleased to announce that it will be using Athens authentication. This means that, as of late summer 2002, access to the four academic UK Census Data Support Units will be via Athens identities.

All existing users of these services will need to re-register in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998; however, all that will be required of users prior to registration, or re-registration, is that they have a personal Athens username. These are usually available from a representative within each institution; a list of these contacts is available at: www.athens.ac.uk/info/sitelist.html

Once registered, each HE/FE user will be able to access the services provided by all four of the Units. A date for the launch of the new system will be advertised once the beta testing for the Census Registration Service has been completed. In the meantime, please direct any queries about the planned service to:
census-registration@essex.ac.uk

"... reciprocal agreements for the exchange of data between countries..."

"... includes a Code of Best Practice for those who are responsible for data collection"

Successful final review for FASTER project

In March the UK Data Archive hosted the final review of the EU funded FASTER project. The FASTER project (Flexible Access to Statistics, Tables and Electronic Resources) aimed to develop a flexible and intelligent technological platform for access to various types of statistical data and related electronic resources on the internet.

The seven partners to the FASTER project were all present at the review where the final results of the project were presented to two external reviewers and the European Community project officer. The reviewers also had an opportunity to meet with staff from Nesstar Ltd. during their time at Essex.

The reviewers' conclusions were very complimentary. They considered that the project had reached successful completion, saying, "Overall, the reviewers are impressed with the performance and quality of work from the project – it can stand as a model for many projects in this area".

They singled out a number of specific areas of success, including the successful management of a project which remained focused and achieved all its major objectives and "made more progress than anticipated in some areas". In particular they described the exploitation plans as excellent and noted the establishment of a commercial venture

(Nesstar Ltd.) which is already generating income. Also noted was the contribution that the team has made to standardisation initiatives for statistical structures and metadata.

A report of the project will be published later this year.

Director of Australian data archive visits UKDA

The newly-appointed Director of the Social Science Data Archives (SSDA), Dr Deborah Mitchell, visited the UKDA in February together with her colleague Dr Trevor Breusch.

The SSDA, located in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, is the leading partner in the Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI), which serves to encourage and support activities and procedures which enhance access to, and use of, social science data within Australian higher education. Meeting with various UKDA staff, Dr Mitchell discussed the possibilities and potential for sharing expertise, both in terms of technological and staff exchanges between the two organisations, as well as facilitating data exchange for social science research between the UK and Australia.

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History Data Service News

Planning historical digitisation projects

The HDS is pleased to announce the web publication of a short introductory guide to planning historical digitisation projects.

The guide highlights important issues that anyone planning to create a digital resource for research, learning or teaching in history, or an associated discipline, should address.

Topics covered include: project management; project timetables; monitoring progress; acquiring sources; identifying the aspects of source to digitise; digitising historical sources; organising a

digital collection; piloting; making a resource available; technical support; requirements for a backup policy; and preservation.

Teams preparing the technical appendix to an application to the Arts and Humanities Research Board should find the guide of particular use.

The new introductory guide to planning historical digitisation projects is available to view on the HDS web site at:
hds.essex.ac.uk/creating/digiprojs/intro.asp

Forthcoming Events and Announcements

4 July 2002 MIMAS Open Forum 2002, University of Manchester.

14-17 July 2002 Health Libraries Group Conference 2002, Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot Watt University.

16-18 July 2002 Social Policy Association (SPA) Annual Conference, Teeside University.

27-29 August 2002 Official Statistics and the New Economy, Office for National Statistics (ONS), London.

2-6 September 2002 International Conference of the Royal Statistical Society, Plymouth.

9-11 September 2002 British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference 2002, Castle Leazes Hall, University of Newcastle.

19 September 2002 Association for Survey Computing (ASC) Conference, Imperial College, London.

Further details may be found at:

www.data-archive.ac.uk/home/forthcomingEvents.asp

Details of training courses may be found at:

www.data-archive.ac.uk/usingData/training.asp

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