

## Value-added Products

ESDS Qualidata adds value to data for the research, learning and teaching communities by:

- enhancing user-oriented information about data to provide a better understanding of the study and research methods, including documentation, 'behind the scenes' interviews with depositors and data samplers
- allowing users to browse the content before they decide to acquire the data, via web-based samplers of key qualitative datasets and links to methodological information
- providing guidance on how to use data resources, for example through thematic web pages, case studies and commentaries on re-use, bibliographies of re-use, and learning exercises

## Supporting Users

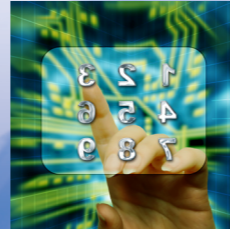
A wide range of dissemination and outreach activities provides support for, and awareness of, the potential of qualitative data including:

- a dedicated help desk facility
- regularly updated web pages and FAQs
- a JISCMail discussion list
- user guides on data and methods
- news bulletins and articles
- presence at conferences and events

## Training Courses

ESDS Qualidata offers a programme of training events and activities to enhance the methodological and substantive understanding, and secondary analytical potential, of archived qualitative data sources with:

- awareness and introductory days
- tailored data management, user and 'data confrontation' workshops
- online training materials



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Economic and Social Data Service

# ESDS Qualidata

ESDS Qualidata is a specialist service of the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) providing access and support for a range of social science qualitative datasets. The service promotes and facilitates increased and more effective use of data in research, learning and teaching, building on Qualidata's long-term expertise and international reputation in this area.

Data are typically acquired via the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Datasets Policy that requires all research grant award holders to offer data collected during the course of their research for preservation and sharing through the ESDS. ESDS Qualidata works closely with data creators to ensure that high quality and well-documented qualitative data are produced. The service provides both general guidance and a dedicated advisory service for data creators and depositors.

ESDS Qualidata is committed to creating value-added data resources as well as developing online access to qualitative data within appropriate ethical and legal frameworks.



supporting  
the use of key  
qualitative  
data

## Qualitative Data Portfolio

ESDS Qualidata acquires data created during the course of qualitative research across a wide range of social science disciplines. Data supported include: in-depth and semi-structured interviews; focus groups; field notes and observations; personal documents and photographs. All types of text and audio-visual materials are considered. The service provides access to many of the classic post-war studies of British society including:



the Peter Townsend collection featuring studies on poverty and the life of older people, Family Life of Old People(1955), The Last Refuge(1959)



the Paul Thompson collection comprising the major life history interview study of The Edwardians (1975)



Stan Cohen's Folk Devils and Moral Panics (1967) focusing on the genesis and development of the 'moral panic'



Dennis Marsden's and Brian Jackson's research papers including their data for Education and the Working Class (1962)



John H. Goldthorpe et al.'s The Affluent Worker (1962) undertaken to test the thesis of working-class embourgeoisement

Data are selected according to a number of criteria including: the relative importance of the study; format and usability; the potential for re-use; issues of copyright and confidentiality.

While the emphasis is on acquiring digital data, ESDS Qualidata continues to facilitate both the resource discovery of qualitative sources archived in the UK and the preservation of important large paper collections. ESDS Qualidata also provides consultancy on setting up qualitative data archives.

## Supporting Data Creators

ESDS Qualidata provides tailored support for creators and depositors of qualitative data, especially ESRC award holders. Researchers are advised to seek guidance from ESDS Qualidata at an early stage in their project to ensure that the sharing of their data will be possible.

Data should be collected, prepared and managed in accordance with ethical and legal requirements and should be fully supported by adequate documentation that will enable informed secondary use. Examples of good practice are:

- in-depth interviews transcribed in word-processed format
- audio-recordings of good sound quality, and in digital format where possible
- informed consent and confidentiality concerns addressed prior to data collection

Guidance is provided on the web site and via a programme of workshops.

## Online Access

ESDS Qualidata is committed to offering more flexible access to digital qualitative data, via a web-based download system and online browsing of data. The ESDS Qualidata Online system is regularly updated and developed to take advantage of emerging eXtensible Markup Language (XML) standards and technologies for providing access to qualitative data.

