

# Data Library Consultancy and Resources

Edinburgh University Data Library assists University staff and students in the use of digital data for research, teaching or course work. The examples below illustrate how the Data Library can help you at any stage of a project.

For an enquiry or an appointment, contact the Data Library, tel: 0131 650 3304 or 0131 651 1744, email: [datalib@ed.ac.uk](mailto:datalib@ed.ac.uk). Further information about Data Library services is available at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/data-library>.

## Finding...

*I need to analyse some data for a project, but all I can find are published papers with tables and graphs, not the original data source.*

The Data Library can help you get started with advice on your specific data needs. We can match your research topic to data resources such as surveys, censuses and databases and provide information on other libraries, archives, government agencies, and internet sites which provide data. The Data Library also negotiates purchase of licensed datasets for University-wide use.

## Accessing...

*I've found the data I need, but I'm not sure how to gain access to it.*

The Data Library can assist you with registration and acquisition of data from national and international data services, such as the Economic and Social Data Service, Eurostat, EDINA and MIMAS. We can show you how to use custom interfaces to download data or provide files online or on disc for you to use wherever you prefer to work. In some cases the Data Library will purchase data that is otherwise unavailable to a data user.

## Using...

*I've got the data I need, but I'm not sure how to analyse it in my chosen software.*

Large-scale survey and census data can be overwhelming until it becomes familiar. The Data Library staff can help you make sense of code-books and online documentation, help you choose variables to use in your analysis, or customise your dataset in Excel, SPSS or another analysis package. The staff can also help you import spatial data into a Geographic Information System package such as ArcGIS for making thematic maps, and offer assistance in linking data from multiple sources.

## Managing...

*I have collected my own data and I'd like to manage it properly.*

Data Library staff can advise you on decisions about storing, versioning, documenting, anonymising and formatting your data so that it can be shared with others or preserved for future use in an archive or repository, such as Edinburgh DataShare - <http://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/>.

# Data Library Resources

The kinds of resources available from the Data Library are explained below, with examples of people who might use them. Search or browse the data catalogue at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/finding-data>

## Large-scale Social Science Survey Data

Government-sponsored or academic studies of samples with populations within or outside the United Kingdom, such as the Labour Force Survey, the Integrated Household Survey and the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey.

Useful for ... *a Sociology researcher studying changes in social identities.*

... *an Economics honours student comparing earnings data for different groups.*

## Macro-economic and Financial Time Series Data

Financial databases for equities, company accounts, and commodities, such as Datastream. Socio-economic indicators from national and international sources, such as ONS, Eurostat, the UN and the World Bank are also available via ESDS International.

Useful for ... *an MBA student who needs share prices for certain companies over a period time.*

... *a Politics postgrad comparing the education expenditure of OECD member countries.*

## Government Administrative and Census Data

Current and historical census datasets for different levels of geography for Scotland and the whole of the UK. Area statistics, deprivation indices, commuting and migration flow data, sample microdata and linked longitudinal records. Administrative data is available via the Administrative Data Liaison Service, Secure Data Service and Data.gov.uk.

Useful for ... *a medical student comparing social deprivation of areas where patients live.*

... *a geographer analysing daytime population densities.*

## Data for Mapping

Access to Ordnance Survey digital mapping, resources for creating thematic maps, such as a UK administrative boundary data, national grid coordinate points from postcodes and satellite imagery of the UK.

Useful for ... *an Architecture student researching building styles of a particular neighbourhood.*

... *a Geography student doing a project on siting windmills in an optimal location.*

## Resources for Teaching

Documentary films, image collections and teaching datasets are all available to enhance classroom activities and online learning environments. Data Library staff are also available to demonstrate resources to groups. See our 'Using data' web page for printable user guides.

Useful for ... *a Scottish History lecturer who would like to add a film to his class website showing life in the Highlands in the 1950s.*

... *an Education lecturer who would like to give her students a hands-on computer exercise using the simplified Scottish Household Survey dataset.*