

Announcing the new ESDS one-stop registration service

Social Science week, 21-25 June 2004, sees the launch of the new ESDS registration service. This will allow registered users access to all ESDS data services through a one-stop Athens Single Sign On. This means that users will only need to enter their personal Athens username once to gain subsequent access to all ESDS services. Users at institutions with Athens devolved authentication will also be able to use their local network login. The registration service also heralds the implementation of a new streamlined UK Data Archive (UKDA) ordering system and personalised web pages of requested datasets.



Registration for ESDS is a one-off procedure and will allow ESDS to identify users with previous UKDA accounts, so that ongoing and past dataset orders are not lost. It will also facilitate the building of personalised web pages for each registered user. Users within UK higher and further education who register with ESDS will also be entitled to access census data via the Census Registration Service (CRS) and vice versa. Users who have previously registered with the CRS or with ESDS International will not need to register with ESDS again.

The new ordering system will facilitate online procedures that previously involved direct contact with the UKDA such as: acceptance of special conditions for dataset usage; the checking of dataset access conditions against user type; requests for dataset availability for download; and calculation of charges together with production of invoices for commercial orders or, where applicable, media and handling charges.

In the new system there is no distinction between ordering and download, just the concept of adding datasets to personalised web pages, where the method of dissemination, (download, CD) can be selected. ESDS will still request usage information for access to data supplied by the UKDA, since both our depositors and funding agencies require this information and it is necessary to implement access control. However, this process is now much simpler and the categorisation of subject area has been standardised so that specialist type services can be offered such as: targeted mailings on new data releases, dedicated workshops and training.

The UKDA, via ESDS registration, will continue to provide access to data supplied by the UKDA for UK users outside of higher and further education, and all non-UK users. For those users from institutions outside the current Athens portfolio, the UKDA has obtained the right to issue Athens usernames and has implemented online Athens registration forms.

For a step-by-step guide to accessing UKDA data under the new ESDS registration system, refer to the enclosed flyer.

For further information, including links to registration and Athens help, see:
www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/access/introduction.asp

CRS logs 12,000th user

The Census Registration Service, hosted by the UKDA, is pleased to announce that the service has registered its 12,000th unique user since the launch of the service in August 2002. Users within UK higher and further education have been registered to use the data supplied by the four Census Data Support Units funded by the ESRC/JISC.

The service replaced a time-consuming paper and postal based system with a single, simple online form, based on Athens authentication. Access to the data is immediate, without the need to remember additional passwords.

Making life easier for ESDS data depositors

ESDS are happy to announce a new method for collecting the information provided by depositors which is used to create the basis of the online catalogue entry. Since a well-defined catalogue entry aids resource discovery, depositors are encouraged to provide as much information as possible.

The Data Collection Deposit Form will be significantly revised with an electronic application that both eases the procedures for completion and provides the ESDS with more consistent, machine-ready information for the catalogue.

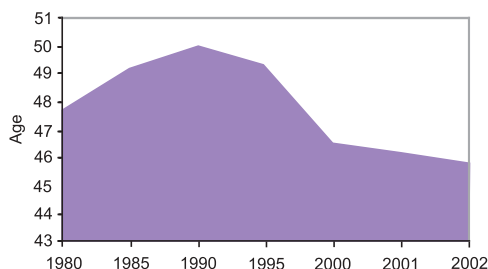
This new method for completing the form will allow depositors to download the application to their desktop. Information can then be filled in over a period of time and even passed on to another user for adding further details. In several sections drop down menus will allow entry text to be added automatically. To support the program, a suite of web pages are being created including comprehensive help text and guidance and a series of frequently asked questions. The Data Collection Deposit Form will significantly ease the process for all depositors. See the ESDS news web page for release information.

ESDS International expands data portfolio

Since December 2003 ESDS International has released the following international databases:

- IMF Direction of Trade Statistics contains time series data on the value of merchandise exports and imports between each country and all its trading partners from the 1980s to the present;
- IMF International Financial Statistics, published monthly since 1948, reports, for most countries, time series data on exchange rates, balance of payments, international liquidity, money and banking, interest rates, prices, production, international transactions, government accounts, national accounts and population;
- World Bank's World Development Indicators contain social, economic, financial, natural resources and environmental indicators covering the period 1960-2002;

Life expectancy at birth in Sub-Saharan Africa



Source: World Bank World Development Indicators

- World Bank's Global Development Finance database contains debt and financial flows indicators that report public and publicly-guaranteed debt to the World Bank Debtor Reporting System. These data run from 1970-2001.

Additional OECD datasets have also been released including Main Science and Technology Indicators, Measuring Globalisation Statistics, Social Expenditure Database, Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, International Migration Statistics, International Development Statistics and the International Direct Investment Statistics.

Further data to be released over the coming months will include the IMF Balance of Payments database and the UN Common Database. All data are freely available to the UK academic community via Athens authentication and ESDS online registration.

For further details on expected release dates at ESDS International, see: www.esds.ac.uk/international/access/availability.asp

The National Strategy for Longitudinal Studies

The National Strategy Committee for Longitudinal Studies advises the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre and the ESRC on a strategy for co-ordinating the social science effort in longitudinal studies and ensuring that the needs of social scientists are met. Issues high on the agenda for the National Longitudinal Strategy Committee were discussed at a recent meeting. One key issue is how best to provide

geographical detail on longitudinal files without breaching confidentiality. A report by Paul Boyle and Vernon Gayle identifies the different requirements of users and outlines some alternative strategies. These include releasing geographical information under a strict contract with the user and adding an area-level classification that does not reveal the location but simply describes its characteristics.

The Committee is concerned with the scope for adding administrative data to enhance existing longitudinal studies or to construct new studies. Mike Noble and colleagues have conducted a short consultancy that includes consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of administrative data; an overview of the current situation; and examples of the use of administrative data in the UK and overseas.

A framework for quality profiles has been agreed. Quality profiles are designed to define the key elements of quality relevant to longitudinal studies and provide information to inform each element. Profiles have been produced for the BHPS and are currently being produced for the Millennium Cohort Study. By documenting, in an accessible way, the main aspects of data quality (e.g. relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility), users are helped to make informed decisions about their analysis, and also identify areas where remedial work is needed.

The Committee is also concerned with new areas where data is not available but where there is a research need and as such ESRC have commissioned a consultancy on the feasibility of a qualitative longitudinal study. Another concern is longitudinal data to support analyses of ethnic differences. An initial scoping study, conducted by David Owen and Anne Green, is now being developed further by ONS and ESRC.

The ESRC will shortly appoint a Datasets Co-ordinator, who will take responsibility for further development of the National Strategy for Longitudinal Studies.

For further details see: www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/news

Annual CESSDA meeting

The Council of European Social Science Data Archives' (CESSDA) annual business meeting was held on April 2, hosted by the Irish Social Science Data Archive at University College, Dublin. CESSDA is a federation of national data archives covering most of the countries of Europe. It serves to facilitate access to social science research data across Europe. Particularly important in this regard is the Transborder Access Agreement which all CESSDA members sign up to and which provides a framework by which data can be transferred from one country to another for research purposes.

Discussion at the Dublin meeting focused on the challenges and potential posed by recent technical developments in creating quicker and easier access to international micro data for researchers and enhanced resource discovery tools. In relation to improved access to data, the notion of an international data 'passport' was discussed in which users' registration details and associated access rights could be shared in a common authentication system, making cross-border data access quicker, easier and a more transparent process for users. For resource discovery, plans are already well advanced to produce a greatly improved Integrated Data Catalogue which will enable researchers to search simultaneously across

"...scope for adding administrative data to enhance existing longitudinal studies..."

"...creating quicker and easier access to international micro data..."

the catalogues of the various CESSDA institutions. This development is mainly being undertaken through the EC-funded MADIERA project, and will be completed in 2006.

The meeting was joined by both Mary Vardigan from the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), the largest social science data archive in North America, and Richard Rockwell from the Roper Center. Both institutions are invited to the CESSDA meeting as observers in order to maximise co-operation and exchange wherever possible with North American partners. Prior to travelling to Dublin, Mary also spent two days at the UKDA talking to staff and exploring the potential for joint working arrangements.

CESSDA: www.nsd.uib.no/cessda

MADIERA: www.madiera.net



Bergen hosts NESSIE round table

The third NESSIE round table *Data Protection and Data Access Regulations and Guidelines* was held in Bergen, hosted by the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD), on 7-8 May. The Network of Economic and Social Science Infrastructures in Europe (NESSIE), involves four partners: European Centre for Analysis in the Social Sciences, Essex; Zentralarchiv, Cologne; CEPS/Instead, Luxembourg; and NSD. It is funded by the European Commission to identify tasks that will make access to large data collections more feasible and to make recommendations to ensure their comparability across Europe. NESSIE works through a programme of active exchange, seminars and workshops, and through the implementation of web-based tools for information exchange and access.

The round table focused on the legal and ethical framework within which empirical research operates throughout Europe and provided a useful exchange between social scientists, lawyers and those working in the field of medical ethics. The main issue addressed was how the common European legislative framework, in particular the Data Protection Directives and the implication of research ethics committees, is and will impact on access to and use of survey data for social science research across Europe. Also discussed were the related issues of data confidentiality and privacy and the steps that researchers should undertake to ensure both legal compliancy and respondent trust.

For further information on the ethical and legal issues to be considered when conducting survey research see: www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/create/ethical.asp

NESSIE: nessie.essex.ac.uk

Using data in teaching and learning

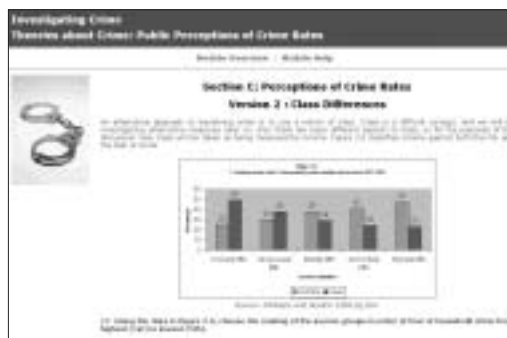
The Survey Data in Teaching (SDiT) project funded under the JISC Exchange for Learning (X4L) Programme, aims to increase the use of real data sources in the classroom, and improve the data literacy of GCE A level and university students up to postgraduate level. The project is led by the UK Data Archive with input from the Department of Government, University of Essex and the Colchester Sixth Form College.

The X4L SDiT project uses the study of crime in society to show how existing data sources can be utilised, and is relevant to a range of social science disciplines such as sociology, politics, psychology, media studies and citizenship studies. The outputs from the project are a variety of free teaching and learning resources (paper, word and web-based) and associated data analysis software relating to social science and statistics. A teachers guide is also being provided to accompany the resources. The materials are based on learning strategies that encourage the teaching of research methods within a substantive context and are designed to be used as part of standard classroom teaching or as additional/self-paced learning activities.

The resources are being evaluated in a number of FE colleges. Ian Levinson, a teacher of politics at the Colchester Sixth Form College, recently tested the resources on his AS level students. He said, "...this is a well focused topic with clear aims and objectives. There is always a benefit in teaching a specific topic. I liked the various exercises involved in the modules...there is a need to improve the students' graph and data skills."

Louise Corti, Project Manager, said, "It is our hope that these resources will enable learners to have a better understanding of the use of social science data as applied to real-life problems; to enhance skills in manipulating numerical data in textbooks, newspapers or reports; and to become critical consumers of this data."

X4L web site: x4l.data-archive.ac.uk



Latest collections available for researchers

The following brief descriptions highlight a selection of the newly-released datasets:

SN 4838 British Social Attitudes Survey, 2002 and SN 4808 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2002

For the 2002 surveys, information was collected on a number of social issues including political attitudes, public spending and welfare, health care, labour market issues, national identity, education and transport.

"...to make recommendations to ensure their comparability across Europe..."

"...based on learning strategies that encourage the teaching of research methods..."

SN 4912 Health Survey for England, 2002

This survey provides information on various aspects of the nation's health. The 2002 survey, for the first time, asked questions on maternal and infant health of mothers of children under the age of one year.

SN 4841 Neighbourhood Boundaries, Social Disorganisation and Social Exclusion, 2001-2002

Topics covered in this study include crime, fear of crime, neighbourhoods, social deprivation, social and community cohesion, crime prevention and community organisations, and attitudes towards

community policing, trust, victimisation, local crime and social disorder problems.

SN 4821 Social Inequality III, 1999

This International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) study focuses on equality of income, wealth, and opportunity; perceptions of the extent of present inequality; explanations for inequality; and the role of government to reduce inequality.

For a full list of recently-released datasets see: www.data-archive.ac.uk/home/newData.asp

AHDS History News

ICT in Arts and Humanities Research Programme

The AHRB has launched a new ICT in Arts and Humanities Research Programme. The main aims of the programme are to: encourage, support and enhance the use of ICT in the conduct of research in all areas of the arts and humanities; develop resources and tools; and exploit ICT in disseminating and making available the results of research. The programme will help the AHRB to develop its ICT strategy, to monitor the overall implementation of the strategy and to coordinate the activities funded under it, including the whole of the AHDS. It will also fund a range of projects and/or services to complement the services already provided by AHDS and Humbul. The main element of the programme will be the AHRB ICT Methods Network, which will be a UK-wide service for arts and humanities researchers with advanced knowledge of ICT resources. The network will focus on new developments and advanced methodologies; on research processes, questions, and methods; and on uses of data.

One related pre-network element of this programme is the JISC-funded methods database, currently under development, recording current and recent ICT-based research in the arts and humanities across the UK. The database will provide extensive information on ICT-related methodologies including usage of technologies, data creation methodologies, employment of metadata standards, and usage of formats.

www.ahds.ac.uk/about/projects/methods-db/

GIS of the Ancient Parishes of England and Wales, 1500-1850

AHDS History have recently released SN 4828 - a GIS version of Roger Kain and Richard Oliver's Historic Parishes of England and Wales (SN 4348). The original study consisted of 115 1 inch:1 mile OS New Popular Series Maps, overlaid with the parish boundaries and was an invaluable reference tool. The new version, created by the University of Portsmouth, is a single digital map of the boundaries, providing a single continuous coverage of polygons enabling its use within a GIS to select, analyse and present historic information.

Forthcoming Events

- 30 June 2004:** MIMAS Open Forum 2004, University of Manchester
- 1-3 July 2004:** ESRC Research Methods Festival, St Catherine's College, Oxford
- 4-6 July 2004:** British Society of Criminology/ESRC Postgraduate Training Conference 2004, University of Portsmouth
- 6-9 July 2004:** British Society of Criminology Conference 2004, University of Portsmouth
- 13-15 July 2004:** SPA Conference: From Third Way to Which Way?, University of Nottingham
- 2 August 2004:** Introduction to ESDS International, Manchester
- 3 August 2004:** Introduction to the Analysis of Time Series using Stata, Manchester
- 6 August 2004:** Using government surveys for research, University of St Andrews
- 9-13 August 2004:** The European Social Survey, Round 1: Data Confrontation Workshop, University of Essex
- 16-20 August 2004:** RC33 Sixth International Conference on Social Science Methodology, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 19-27 August 2004:** Theory and Practice in the Analysis of Longitudinal Data, University of Southampton
- 1-3 September 2004:** Work, Employment and Society (WES) Conference 2004, University of Manchester
- 10-12 September 2004:** Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) Conference 2004, Oxford
- 16-18 September 2004:** British Sociological Association Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference 2004, University of York

Further details of these and other events may be found on the ESDS web site.

Editorial group enquiries
Email: publicity@esds.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872319/873159
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

General ESDS enquiries
Email: help@esds.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872143
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

Acquisitions
Email: acquisitions@esds.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872572/872974
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

ESDS Government
Email: govsurveys@esds.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)161 275 1980
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 4722

ESDS International
Email: international@esds.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)161 275 6109
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 6071

ESDS Longitudinal
Email: longitudinal@esds.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872143
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

ESDS Qualidata
Email: qualidata@esds.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1206 873058
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

AHDS History
Email: info@history.ahds.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1206 872326
Fax: +44 (0)1206 872003

Economic and Social Data Service
UK Data Archive
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester
Essex CO4 3SQ, UK

Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) registration

Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) registration entitles you to access data via:

- UK Data Archive (UKDA) for data supported by:
 - ESDS Government
 - ESDS International (micro data)
 - ESDS Longitudinal
 - ESDS Qualidata
 - AHDS Historyand a large range of other survey data;
- ESDS International for regularly updated key macro-economic time series datasets, provided by organisations such as the OECD, UNIDO and the IMF.

Your registration also entitles you to use the Census Data Support Units:

- Census Dissemination Unit
- Census Geography Data Unit (UKBORDERS)
- Census Interaction Data Service
- Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research

All services use Athens Single Sign On; you only need to enter your Athens username and password once for access.

Frequently asked questions

What if I don't have a personal Athens username?

If you are within UK higher or further education, contact your data librarian/Athens administrator. If you are outside UK higher or further education visit the ESDS Athens help web page: www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/access/athensh.asp

I am registered with the UKDA. Do I need to register with ESDS?

You will still need to register with ESDS to continue to access data supplied by the UKDA.

Can I still access my UKDA order history?

Yes. You will have the option to enter your UKDA username and password to link up your UKDA order history with your ESDS account.

I am registered with ESDS International/Census Registration Service (CRS). Do I need to register with ESDS?

No. However, the first time you login, you may be taken to the ESDS registration pages to agree to a new End User Licence.

Three steps to ESDS registration

1. Login using Athens to an ESDS resource or go direct to the ESDS login/register web page:

www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/access/login.asp

2. Complete the online registration form and agree to the terms of the End User Licence.
3. Receive a confirmation email. If prompted visit the web page indicated in the email to complete registration.

Access to UKDA data with ESDS registration

1. Use the Finding pages for our online catalogue, major studies or geographical focus pages.
2. Use the Download/order links to add the datasets to your shopping basket.
3. Select a registered use of data or register a new use of data.
4. Download, request for download, or request the data on CD.
5. Use the Explore online links/icons to access the ESDS Nesstar Catalogue (nesstar.esds.ac.uk/webview/index.jsp) to view frequencies, conduct simple online tabulations, produce graphs and create subsets.

Where prompted to login, always use your Athens login.
Login/register from any page.

www.esds.ac.uk

