MODULE 5

Searching For Evidence: Sources of Crime Data

Survey Data in Teaching

enhancing critical thinking and data numeracy

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Module 5: Searching For Evidence: Sources of Crime Data

In this module:

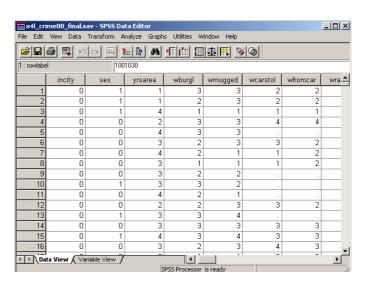
- You get a tour of some of the resources available on the web, including
 - UK Data Archive
 - Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG)
- You learn how to search for other data
- You get a long list of links to other useful sites

The Police Recorded Crime Figures and the British Crime Survey are just two useful sources of data for crime-related statistics. However they are not the only sources,. Access to a computer and a web browser such as Internet Explorer allows the informed individual to harvest information from a number of other likely data sources that can be found on the internet.

UK Data Archive

Perhaps chief among the sources of British economic and social data on the internet is the UK Data Archive (UKDA).

The UKDA is an internationally-renowned centre of expertise in data acquisition, and is curator of the largest collection of digital data in the social sciences and humanities in the UK. Most of the data that the UKDA holds are in the form of numerically-coded datasets (see image) and are derived from social surveys. Datasets in this form are known as raw data, because they have not yet been analysed.



Experienced consumers of data will look for raw data sources on which they can conduct secondary analysis. The term refers to the fact that the analyst has not designed and collected the data themselves but will use the data for their own 'secondary' purposes (in the

case of large-scale official surveys such as the British Crime Survey, 'primary analysis' is usually conducted by a government department).

In the other modules you conduct some secondary analysis yourself. This module, however, is focused on finding potentially useful data.

Searching for crime-related data at the UKDA

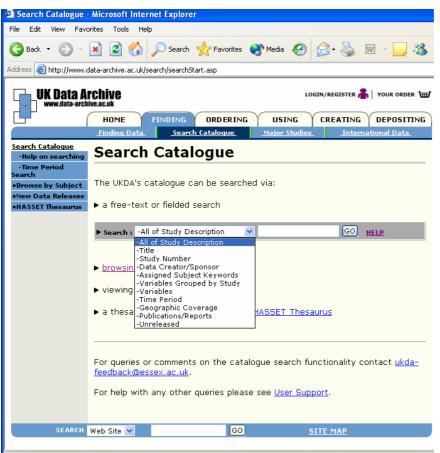
The UKDA's <u>online catalogue</u> contains a record for each of the several thousand studies held by the UKDA. Each of these records provides information about the study, including an abstract, a list of the main topics covered, information on who deposited the data, when the data were collected and how they can be accessed. A catalogue record will also usually include associated documentation (such as the survey questionnaire) and a list of variables.

The online catalogue is easy to search, and access to the catalogue does not require registration. If you can't immediately find what you are looking for in the catalogue, the UKDA web pages offer alternative means of searching the archive's holdings that you might find more useful.

For an example of a catalogue record, click here.

Search facilities at the UKDA

When searching for data at the UKDA, most users will begin by searching the online catalogue.



The catalogue can be searched in a number of ways. As the image indicates, users can choose a field to search from a drop-down list.

In addition, users can:

- search for terms with the same prefix. For example, to find Scotland, Scottish,
 Scotsman and so on, users can enter the search term scot*
- search for an exact phrase by putting quotation marks around the search term, for example "Scottish crime"
- combine search terms using AND, OR and AND NOT. For example, typing in

Scottish AND crime

would find all studies with both the word Scottish and the word crime. Note that searches are case independent, it doesn't matter whether or not you use capitals.

'All of Study Description' is the first and default search. This will produce a free-text search on all fields in the list, as well as the abstract and methodology e.g. sampling methods, method of data collection etc. Selecting one of the other fields will provide a more focused search.

Further help and advice on searching can be found here

Example: Using the catalogue to search

Access the UKDA's online catalogue.

(i) Suppose you are interested very generally in crime. Type **crime** into the search box on the default search of **All of Study Description** and click 'GO'.

| Search : | -All of Study Description | crir | ne |
|----------|---------------------------|------|----|
| ocarcii. | | | |

(ii) You now want to focus your search more clearly. What you are really interested in is fear of crime. Using the drop-down menu, change the search to **Assigned Subject Keywords** and enter **fear of crime** in the search box.

| Search : | -Assigned Subject Keywords | ▼ | fear of crime | |
|----------|----------------------------|---|---------------|--|

(c) You realise that what in fact you want to access is the British Crime Survey. Select **Title** from the drop-down menu and enter **british crime** in the search box.



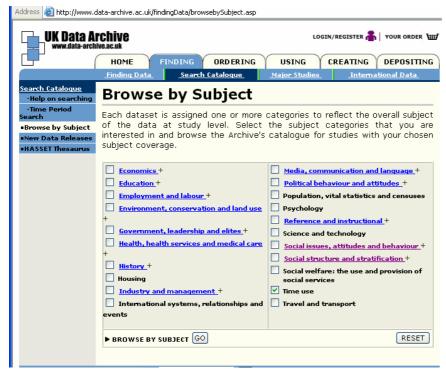


investigating...

Try searching the catalogue using other words/phrases and search categories. Are there any studies in the UKDA collection where the data creator/sponsor shares your surname?

Alternatives to the catalogue

The online catalogue is just one means of searching for data in the UKDA collection. There are several other ways. A very general search for data can be undertaken using the **Browse** by Subject' facility.

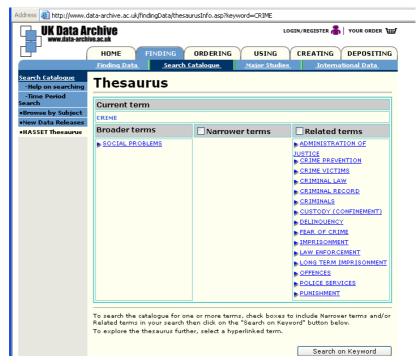


This facility allows the researcher to track down all those datasets that have been assigned to one (or more) subject area(s) - for example, Travel and transport or Psychology. So, if you are interested in **Time use** studies – that is, studies that typically record how people spend their day or week - you can check the box next to 'Time use' (see image) and click on the GO button. The page that is produced will list all the UKDA studies that have been assigned to that particular subject category.

If you want to be a little more precise in your searching, **Browse by Subject** allows this too. For those subject categories with a hyperlink (i.e. those with a '+' at the end), clicking on the link will bring up a list of sub-categories that you can search on.

A further search strategy might be to conduct a thesaurus-aided search using the Humanities and Social Science Electronic Thesaurus (HASSET). A HASSET search is based on the same technology as the 'Assigned Subject Keywords' search in the online catalogue.

Go to **HASSET** and enter crime in the keyword box. The results page should be similar to this screen



From here, the researcher has two options:

- first, they could simply click on the Search on Keyword button. Clicking on the button will bring up the list of studies that have the keyword 'crime' assigned to them (this is precisely the same result you would get if you had entered crime as an Assigned Subject Keywords search using the online catalogue);
- the second option available is to broaden, narrow or slightly change the focus of your keyword search.

You will see from the screen that underneath the **Current term** there are three columns – **Broader terms**, **Narrower terms** and **Related terms**. In the example provided, there are no hyperlinks in the Narrower terms column – but, as we will see, this is not always the case. There is just a single alternative in the Broader terms column – social problems. Click on the <u>SOCIAL PROBLEMS</u> hyperlink; on the page that loads, how many narrower terms are listed?

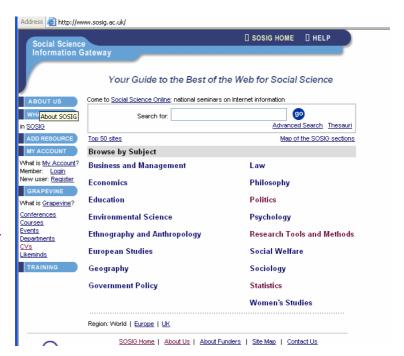
The third column – Related terms – helps the researcher to change the focus of their search by selecting a keyword that is related to the original search term. So, for example, if 'social problems' is our current term, it may be that we are actually interested in beggars. We can then click on the <u>beggars</u> hyperlink and, on the page that loads, click on the **Search on Keyword** button to retrieve a list of catalogue records that have been tagged as containing data on beggars.

Other sources of data on the WWW

Up to this point, this module has focused on sourcing raw data. Of course, we are not always interested in accessing raw data. Very often what we need are statistics, figures or tables that have already been produced. The UKDA web site is not so good for this, but there are other sites that cater for this need.

SOSIG

A good place to start is the Social Science Information Gateway (or SOSIG): www.sosig.ac.uk. SOSIG is a free-to-access internet resource aimed at students, academics and researchers in the fields of social science, business and law. The SOSIG web site has two resources that are likely to be particularly useful in terms of finding data: the SOSIG Internet Catalogue and the Social Science Search Engine.



The Internet Catalogue allows users to search a database of internet resources related to their subject of enquiry. The database has been put together by qualified social scientists and information specialists so you can be sure that the resources are of good quality.

The Social Science Search Engine is a separate online database from the main SOSIG Internet Catalogue. This database is much larger as the resources have been automatically collected by a search site¹. However, because the resources have been obtained automatically, they have not been checked for their quality.

National Statistics Online

The National Statistics Online site www.statistics.gov.uk is another valuable resource for those interested in accessing published statistics. The National Statistics home page contains a range of links to official data sources and has an especially useful search facility.



Enter **fear of crime** in the search box. Your search will bring up several sources of official data with links to published tables and figures.

Try entering other search terms that you are interested in.

Appendix: Other WWW resources

<u>SOSIG</u> and <u>National Statistics Online</u> are just two of a great many online resources. There are hundreds more. Among them²:

UNITED KINGDOM STATISTICS:

National Statistics -

Bookshelf <u>www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/</u>

Department for Education and Skills (DfES) statistics www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) statistics statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/

Department of Health (DOH) statistics www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats3.htm

Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) statistics

<u>www.dtlr.gov.uk/statistics/</u>
Education <u>www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/education/</u>

Coversment Astronia Department

Government Actuary's Department www.gad.gov.uk

Health and care

Labour market

Neighbourhood statistics

Population and migration

Statbase®

www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/labour_market/

www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/labour_market/

www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood/

www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/population/

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/

The Economy www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/economy/
UK 2004: Official Yearbook of the UK www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=5703

SCOTTISH STATISTICS:

Carstairs Scores for Scottish Postcode Sectors from the 1991 Census

www.msoc-mrc.gla.ac.uk/Reports/Pages/PHRU_MAIN.html

EDINA – Edinburgh Data and Information Access <u>edina.ed.ac.uk</u>

Edinburgh Facts and Figures

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/CEC/City_Development/Economic_Development_and_Estates/Edinburgh_Facts

and Figures/content.html

Edinburgh University Data Library datalib.ed.ac.uk

Gateway to Scotland, provided by Geography Department, Edinburgh University

www.geo.ed.ac.uk/home/scotland/scotland.html

Gazetteer for Scotland <u>www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz/</u>

Health Education Board for Scotland, statistics database

www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/services/data/searchstats.htm

National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk

National Statistics - Scotland neighbourhood statistics

www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood/scotland.asp

Population statistics, provided by Geography Department, Edinburgh University

www.geo.ed.ac.uk/home/scotland/pop.html

Scottish Abstract of Statistics www.scotland.gov.uk/library/sas/sa00-00.htm

Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries scurl.ac.uk
Scottish Council for Research in Education www.scre.ac.uk

Scottish Economic History Database, 1550 - 1780

www.ex.ac.uk/~ajgibson/scotdata/scot database home.html

Scottish Executive – Scottish Social Statistics www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/sss/sss-00.asp Scottish Executive statistics www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/sss/sss-00.asp

Scottish Executive, Central Research Unit www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/whatiscru.asp

Scottish Further Education Funding Council
Scottish Higher Education Funding Council
Scottish Local Government Information Unit
Scottish Parliament

www.seottish.parliament.uk

www.scottish.parliament.uk

Scottish Statistics, 2000 www.scotland.gov.uk/library2/doc16/ss2-00.asp Scottish Statistics, 2001 www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/misc/ssfc-00.asp

Scottish Statistics, provided by Glasgow University Library

www.lib.gla.ac.uk/Depts/MOPS/Offpub/scotstat.html

WELSH STATISTICS:

Data Wales www.data-wales.co.uk

National Assembly for Wales - Statistics for Wales www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/

www.wales.gov.uk National Assembly for Wales

National Statistics - Wales neighbourhood statistics www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood/wales.asp

Network Wales www.network.wales.org.uk

V Wales www.red4.co.uk/About Wales/about wales.htm

Wales GenWeb

www.walesgenweb.com Welsh Library at University of Wales, Bangor www.bangor.ac.uk/is/llyfrcym/welshlib.htm

NORTHERN IRISH STATISTICS:

Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland www.arini.ac.uk Conflict Archive on the INteret (CAIN) - Ulster University cain.ulst.ac.uk Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland www.delni.gov.uk Department for Regional Development Northern Ireland www.drdni.gov.uk www.dsdni.gov.uk Department for Social Development Northern Ireland Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Northern Ireland www.dcalni.gov.uk Department of Education in Northern Ireland www.deni.gov.uk

Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment for NI www.detini.gov.uk Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Dept of Education in Northern Ireland - Key Information and Statistics www.deni.gov.uk/statistics/

General Register Office Northern Ireland www.groni.gov.uk Geological Survey of Northern Ireland - British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni/

Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk

N. Ireland Health and Personal Social Services Web Pages www.n-i.nhs.uk National Statistics – Northern Ireland neighbourhood statistics

www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood/n ireland.asp

www.nisra.gov.uk/census/start.html NISRA - Census

North of Ireland Family History Society www.nifhs.org

Northern Ireland Assembly www.ni-assembly.gov.uk Northern Ireland Cancer Registry www.qub.ac.uk/nicr/intro.htm Northern Ireland Economic Council niec.org.uk

Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre www.qub.ac.uk/nierc

Northern Ireland Elections Site explorers.whyte.com Northern Ireland Executive www.nics.gov.uk Northern Ireland GenWeb www.rootsweb.com/~nirwgw/

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey www.qub.ac.uk/ss/csr/nilt/

Northern Ireland Office Online www.nio.gov.uk/links.htm Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency www.nisra.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Statistics capacitybuilder.co.uk/stats.htm Northern Ireland Tourist Board Research Department www.nitb.com/tourismfacts/

Northern Ireland Transport Statistics

www.doeni.gov.uk/statistics/TRANSPORT ANNUAL/PDF/9899/sec29899.pdf

Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland www.osni.gov.uk Public Record Office Northern Ireland proni.nics.gov.uk

Youth Council for Northern Ireland – Research www.youthcouncil-ni.org.uk/Research/right-research.htm

LONDON STATISTICS:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1229 Focus on London 2000

EUROPEAN STATISTICS:

europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-catalogue/EN?catalogue=Eurostat **Furostat**

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS:

OFCD statistics www.oecd.org/statistics/

United Nations Industrial Development Organization – Geographical reference guide

www.unido.org/regions.cfm?TY=R&RID=04

United Nations Statistics Division www.un.org/Depts/unsd/

AGRICULTURE:

National Statistics – Bookshelf: Agriculture (UK)

www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp#agriculture

CRIME/JUSTICE:

National Statistics – Bookshelf: Crime/Justice www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp#crime

ECONOMY:

Bureau of Economic Analysis (US) www.bea.doc.gov

Economic Statistics (UN)

European Central Bank - Statistics (EU)

FedStats (US)

www.un.org/Depts/unsd/sd_economic.htm

www.ecb.int/stats/stats.htm

www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/esbr.html

National Statistics – Bookshelf: Economy (UK)

www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp#economy

National Statistics – The Economy (UK)
OECD Statistics (OECD)

www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-home-

20-nodirectorate-no-no-20,FF.html

Stat-USA® (US)

World Bank Group Data (global)

www.stat-usa.gov

www.worldbank.org/data/

EDUCATION:

DfES Statistics (UK)
Higher Education Statistics Agency (UK)
National Center for Education Statistics (US)

www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/
www.hesa.ac.uk
nces.ed.gov

National Center for Education Statistics (US) National Statistics – Bookshelf: Education (UK)

www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp#education

National Statistics – Education (UK)

World Education Indicators (UNESCO)

www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/education/
unescostat.unesco.org/en/stats/stats0.htm

EMPLOYMENT:

National Statistics – Bookshelf: Labour Market (UK) www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp#labour

ENVIRONMENT:

Environment Statistics (UN) www.un.org/Depts/unsd/enviro/environment.htm

HEALTH:

DOH statistics (UK)

National Center for Health Statistics (US)

National Statistics – Bookshelf: Health (UK)

National Statistics – Health and care (UK)

OECD Health (OECD)

www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats3.htm

www.cdc.gov/nchs/

www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp#health

www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp#health

www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/health care/

www1.oecd.org/els/health/software/

WHOSIS (global) www.who.int/whosis/

World Health Organisation (global) <u>www.who.dk/country/country.htm</u>

POPULATION/MIGRATION:

AmeriStat (US)www.ameristat.orgCensus Bureau (US)www.census.gov

Demographia (UK)

Demographic and Social Statistics (UN)

www.demographia.com/dbx-uk.htm

www.un.org/Depts/unsd/sd_social.htm

Government Actuary's Department (UK) <u>www.gad.gov.uk/policy_and_stats/population_projections.htm</u>

National Statistics – Bookshelf: Population/Migration (UK)

 $\underline{www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp\#population}$

National Statistics – Population and Migration (UK) <u>www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/population/</u>

Popnet (global) <u>www.popnet.org</u>

World Populations Trends (UN) www.undp.org/popin/wdtrends/wdtrends.htm

TRANSPORT/TRAVEL:

National Statistics - Bookshelf: Transport (UK) www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/default.asp#transport

SUMMARY

- You toured of some of the resources available on the web, including the UK Data Archive and Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG).
- You learned how to search for other data
- You explored links to other useful sites to do with statistics, such as the National Statistics Online web site

¹ These are web sites such as Google, Altavista, MSN search which are used as online web

directories.

Note that these are correct as at May 2004, but are liable to change. These are sites external to the UK Data Archive, and access and content cannot be vouchsafed.