Oral history as research data

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Director, Collections Development and Producer Relations

CLARIN workshop: Exploring Spoken Word Data in Oral History Archives
Oxford 18-19 April 2016
Covering

- ‘Research ‘data use and by whom
- Data discovery and access
- Representing content and context when publishing data
My organisation - UK Data Archive

- Department of the University of Essex. Established in 1967 as a ‘Data Bank’
- 48 years of curating and providing access to social science data
- Data and support services for research, teaching and learning
- Runs the UK Data Service: national service providing access to social science research data
- Speciality in social survey data, qualitative data and now ‘big data’
- Registered to ISO 27001 (information security standard)
Sister data archives

Source: http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/get-data/other-providers/data-archives
Some statistics about our Service

Data for research and teaching purposes, used in all sectors and by many different disciplines

- **6,000** datasets in the collection
- **400** new datasets/new editions added within last 12 months
- **25,000** registered users
  - c.75,000 “downloads” from Core service
  - c.40,000 page views on UKDS.stat
  - c. 82,000 census downloads
- **2000,000** downloads worldwide per annum
- **6500+** user support queries per annum
- c.**3,000,000** web page views
Qualitative data services

- 1994 Qualidata ESRC
- 6 years for funding. Piloting national approach to qualitative data sharing and archiving
- Fully incorporated into UK Data Service in 2000
- Archiving, data sharing, secondary analysis training and inter(national) advice
- Fully integrated with 4 specialists in house (plus other portfolios) 70 staff
Qualitative data
Key data

Browse our most popular datasets, by data type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UK surveys</th>
<th>Cross-national surveys</th>
<th>Longitudinal studies</th>
<th>International macrodata</th>
<th>Census data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business microdata</td>
<td>Qualitative / mixed methods</td>
<td>Administrative data</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualitative data is non-numeric information, such as in-depth interview transcripts, diaries, anthropological field notes, answers to open-ended survey questions, audio-visual recordings and images. Mixed methods approaches combine qualitative data with numeric data.

- Discover qualitative or mixed methods data
- Discover case studies relating to qualitative or mixed methods data

Affluent Worker in the Class Structure

The 'Affluent Worker' project was undertaken to test empirically the thesis of working class embourgeoisement. The research studied the attitudes and behaviour of high wage earners in three mass or continuous flow companies.
Examples: oral history interviews

957 qualitative collections, mostly text-based

- Family Life and Work Experience before 1918, Middle and Upper Class Families in the Early 20th Century, 1870-1977 (SN 5404)
- British Oral Archive of Political and Administrative History, 1920-1980 (SN 5252)
- Oral History of Cultural Consumption in Italy, 1936-1954 (SN 6479)
Re-use purposes of qualitative data downloaded from UK Data Service, 1994-2013

Source: Bishop & Kuula-LuUmi, Sage Open 2016
What do users do with the data?

- Comparative research, restudy or follow-up study
- Re-analysis/secondary analysis
- Research design and methodological advancement
- Replication of published statistics
- Teaching and learning
Publications reusing qualitative data, Web of Knowledge, 1990-2015

Source: Bishop & Kuula-LuUmi, Sage Open 2016
Citations of publications reusing qualitative data, Web of Knowledge, 1990-2015

Source: Bishop & Kuula-LuUmi, Sage Open 2016
The national data (survey) archives – qualitative data volume

UK Data Service
1994-
947

Finnish Data service
2003-
177

Gesis
2010-
64

QualiServ ice, Bremen
2000-
14

Slovenia Data Archive
2004-
16

Swiss Data Service
2010-
15
Access conditions

Depositor selects, with guidance, the access category most appropriate for the data collection

**Open**
- available for download/online access under open licence without any registration

**Safeguarded**
- available for download/online access to logged-in users who have registered and agreed to an End User Licence

**Controlled**
- available for remote or safe room access registered users whose research proposal has been approved by an access committee and who have received specialist training
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role:</th>
<th>Active Research Professor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discipline:</td>
<td>Sociology of health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need data:</td>
<td>Interviews /testimonies on health behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>What data:</td>
<td>In depth interviews, with socio-demographic attributes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectation:</td>
<td>Search and browse catalogue collection-level records; Search and browse text; live links to available data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrieve:</td>
<td>Relevant hits; go to extract. View attributes, metadata, study context. Link to other related items and collection level data: read – listen - look Download full textual data in CAQDAS-friendly format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use for:</td>
<td>Content analysis/coding in Nvivo software</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publish:</td>
<td>Journal article citing data extracts (with PI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discovering content and context

Search across collections to find:

• collection characteristics, e.g
  • Date
  • Investigator
  • Substantive topics
  • Method – autobiography, life story, ethnography etc

• item characteristics
  • Socio-economic attributes of speakers – critical for social science
  • Spoken or written words

• Challenge when large no of collections
Search and browse our data collections, support guides, case studies, and related publications.

SEARCH RESULTS

Displaying 1-10 of 419 results

1. SN 5790 National Child Development Study: Sample of Essays (Sweep 2, Age 11), 1969
   University of London. Institute of Education. Centre for Longitudinal Studies
   Full record

2. SN 5049 Retail Competition and Consumer Choice, 2002-2004
   Clarke, I., Lancaster University. Management School. Department of Marketing
   Full record

3. SN 4841 Neighbourhood Boundaries, Social Disorganisation and Social Exclusion, 2001-2002
   Atkinson, R., University of Glasgow. Department of Urban Studies
   Full record
Study level metadata

Morbidity and mortality - Population, vital statistics and censuses
Child development and child rearing - Social stratification and groupings
Elderly - Social stratification and groupings
Family life and marriage - Social stratification and groupings
Gender roles - Social stratification and groupings
Use and provision of specific social services - Social welfare policy and systems

Depositor(s):
Blaxter, M., University of East Anglia

Principal Investigator(s):
Blaxter, M., University of East Anglia

Data Collector(s):
Blaxter, M., University of East Anglia

Sponsor(s):
Economic and Social Research Council

Abstract:
This is an enhanced qualitative study.
The research looked at beliefs and attitudes to health and medical care, inter-generational relationships, and social history of members of a grandmother generation. The original study included interviews with daughters as well; this collection contains only the grandmother interviews.

Grandmothers are asked extensive questions about their own health and the health of other family members. Details are provided on episodes of illness and remedies used, both home and health services. Specific topics of accidents, nutrition, dental care, and immunisation are covered.

More generally, grandmothers are asked about their views of their personal doctors and institutional health services. They give opinions on the quality of health care before and after the introduction of the National Health Service.

Grandmother-daughter relationships are explored, especially around the subject of offering and taking of medical advice concerning care for the grandchildren.

The collection has been enhanced by: conversion from paper to searchable RTF format by OCR and extensive editing and formatting of all interview transcripts. This collection will also be made available through ESDS Qualdata Online.

Main Topics:
The interviews cover health and social history, beliefs and attitudes to medical care, and intergenerational relationships.

There are discussions of the grandmothers' backgrounds, including jobs they held and where they lived.

Many aspects of health are addressed: their own health, childhood diseases, the women's attitudes toward doctors and the National Health Service, including how medical care changed after the start of the NHS. The grandmothers are asked about causes of diseases, remedies and treatments used, and their thoughts on staying healthy.

Relationships with daughters are covered, focusing on whether the grandmothers offer medical advice, and if they do, whether it is accepted by their daughters.

Coverage:
Time Period Covered: 1945-1976
Dates of Fieldwork: 1977-1978
Index date: 1945-1976
Country: Scotland
Spatial Units: No Spatial Unit
Observation Units: Individuals
Kind of Data: Textual data; Semi-structured interview transcripts

Universe Sampled:
Location of Units of Observation: Subnational
Population: Woman living in a city in Scotland who had a child between 1950-53, who were at that time in social class IV or V, who had a daughter who had a child or children born in the same city; and were in the same social classes at the time of the birth; and still lived in the city; and were in touch with the grandmother.

Methodology:
Time Dimensions: Cross-sectional (one-time) study
Sampling Procedures: Purposive selection/case studies
Number of Units: 46
Method of Data Collection: Face-to-face interview; Transcription of existing materials; Audio recording
Weighting: Not applicable
Control Operations:
Top level catalogue record / keyword index

- DDI-2 XML catalogue record; international archival standards (based on ISAD(G))
- Citation: standard format with DOI
  
- Keyword index using social science and humanities HASSET thesaurus (ELSST European language)
Documentation: *Being a Doctor*

Standard documentation for qualitative collection (46 indepth interviews)

- User guide - research report, interview schedule, information for participants and consent form
- Data list (Excel and PDF)
- Citation file
- Read file information on data preparation

### Documentation

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Data listing

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Depositor stories

"How researchers have tackled the task of archiving their challenging data"

Sharing data may be a simple task but it may unearth some complex issues that need to be thought through carefully.

View our short videos made with some of our key depositing organisations, including Natcen, DECC and ISER and the academics who collect the Skills and employment Survey series.

Our staff have advised many hundreds of depositors from government departments to academics on how to prepare and, where necessary, protect data. While we provide
Edit collection: Data Collection #851515

To deposit a data collection, you must accept the ReShare Terms and Conditions.

- I confirm that I am the owner of the copyright and associated intellectual property rights in the whole Data Collection or am otherwise lawfully entitled to grant this licence on behalf of each and every owner;
- I grant a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to the UK Data Archive (a department of the University of Essex and not a separate legal entity) of Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ (the "University") to hold, make copies of, and disseminate copies of the Data collection, in accordance with the access conditions I will specify when uploading data files: open data accessible to users without registration; or safeguarded data accessible to users registered with the data services provided by the UK Data Archive.

I agree to the ReShare data deposit terms and conditions

[ ]

Save for later  Cancel  Next >
Header in from data list

Speaker tags

Typical rft transcript template

Information about interviewee
Date of birth:
Gender:
Marital status:
Occupation:
Geographic region:

I: Just one or two factual details first of all before we go on to your health and that... how old are you?

FL: I'm 58 in June.

I: What schools did you go to? Can you remember that far back!

FL: Oh... the last school was at Longside... ism, ken Longside?

I: No, where is that?

FL: Peterhead Village... That was the last school.

I: Uh-huh, so you lived in Peterhead...

FL: No, Longside

I: Longside. And, do you work at all? At the moment?

FL: Just look after my grandchildren. Like that... well, my grand-daughter comes in at night. Well, her mother cleans the school... and I look after my grandson whose mother works... aye, that kind of thing. I take him in and keep an eye on him. Well, he's at the school but I give him his dinner an' look after him at night til she comes an' picks him up.

I: Just one or two factual details first of all before we go on to your health and that... how old are you?

FL: I'm 58 in June.

I: What schools did you go to? Can you remember that far back!

FL: Oh... the last school was at Longside... ism, ken Longside?

I: No, where is that?

FL: Peterhead Village... That was the last school.
Audio

- Very little in collection

- Converted to mp3 for dissemination (download, stream)

- Archived in original lossless formats, and converted to open storage formats e.g. .flac

- File names follow a clear logic; to relate to text etc.

Challenge

• Discovery challenge when breadth of data collections

• Hard to search both across and within content

• Challenge of what and how much context?

• UKDA has 2 pathways
  • Discover collections and download
  • Search and browse content
Beyond the catalogue: user journey

1. Enter a search term or browse
2. Display the text of an interview transcript on a web page
3. Link to related data such as audio or video
4. Examine the metadata about the interview, e.g. the speaker and various attributes
5. Visit related information, such as external websites holding contextual documentation about the study or topic, e.g. maps
6. Cite an extract for referencing in publication
7. User or new user can annotate an extract
Faceted browsing – common facets

Refine search or browse:

- Collection title
- Access (showing access conditions) – open or closed
- Resource type (type of object, such as interview transcript or image)
- Date (of coverage of the materials, not fieldwork dates)
- Sex
- Age group
- Socioeconomic status
- Region (to which the data refer)
Search interface - hits

Digital Futures

Search and browse qualitative surveys, interviews and open-ended questions

Search: illness

SEARCH RESULTS

1 of 235 results

Interview with G18
SN4943 Mothers and Daughters, 1945-1978

...But you had a lot of illness when you were at school... uh-huh...

Access whole collection

Interview with G32
SN4943 Mothers and Daughters, 1945-1978

...Oh, I'd lots of illnesses then. You know, I'd had diphtheria, scarlet fever, every illness you could think of. Pneumonia, double pneumonia, everything. And then I had a ... the palette of my throat fell down w' diphtheria, an I was dumb for six months. I still remember that. I was just about...

Access whole collection

Interview with G7
SN4943 Mothers and Daughters, 1945-1978
Target page for an interview

Interview with Mr. Hennessey

SN: 2000
Title: Family Life and Work Experience Before 1918, 1870-1973
Sex: Male
Age group: 65-74
Socioeconomic status: Lower supervisory/technical
Region: North West

FULL INTERVIEW TEXT

Interviewer: Can you tell me where your father came from originally?
Subject: I can't, no. From Manchester, I expect. Although he tells me about ... well, me father, he tells me about me grandfather having a little barrel of brandy sent from France.

Interviewer: As if he might have come from France?
Subject: Yes. Hennessey's brandy.
Interviewer: You didn't belong to the Hennessey brandy family?
Subject: I think he did. I think it is. But he said he couldn't pay the duty on it and they had to send it back. That's all I know about it, I mean to say, it might be hearsay, and I don't know.
Interviewer: You don't know where your mother came from?
Subject: No, I haven't the faintest like that.
Target page for an audio file

<table>
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<tr>
<th>About us</th>
<th>Get data</th>
<th>Use data</th>
<th>Manage data</th>
<th>Deposit data</th>
<th>News and Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Home > Some Page > Current Child Page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviews</th>
<th>Study documentation</th>
<th>Web resources</th>
<th>Access whole collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**DETAILS**

SN:
Title:

**AUDIO**

Play audio file

**RELATED RESOURCES**

**Related Interviews**
Interview with Mr. Keble

**Related Study documentation**
User Documentation: User Guide

**Related Web resources**
Web Resource: Abstract of the Edwardians book
Target references

Interviewer: He also answered, in many cases, by actions, as in the case of when I asked him if anyone ever went down in the world. He said very heartily, 'yes' and started to illustrate by jumping up and pretending to drink a pint of beer.

Interviewer: I have tried as far as possible to keep recapping at this point, as he does this.

Interviewer: When I asked him about people going down in the world he signaled to me to put the tape off - in fact, I had very great difficulty as you can hear, keeping hold of the interview at all, he more or less took charge and talked at very, very great length, and I had to keep interrupting to get questions in at all. The first afternoon I don't think I got more than a quarter of an hour on tape, the rest were all reminiscences which range from early childhood to present day. I made a note of some of them and tried to get them in, as you will hear, when I went on the second afternoon.

Interviewer: Unfortunately, I found out that a lot of the reminiscences were things that he had read, so of course, I had to go back on the tape and obliterate these and then continue the interview from there. I explained to him that I didn't want anything that he had read, just his own experiences.

Interviewer: As usual, of course, he had the idea that you wanted to know local history and I got a long list of all the buildings round about that had changed, and how many had come down and I had quite great difficulty to keep interrupting. You will hear that made a lot of snaps on the tape for this. I would listen patiently and watch for an opportunity to interrupt.

RELATED RESOURCES

Related Study documentation

User Documentation: User Guide

Related Web resources

Web Resource: Abstract of the Edwardians book
Fine-grained citation

- Paragraph level citation in QualiBank (APA citation style). Citation URI resolves back to the paragraph in context.
Which and how much metadata?

- Primary metadata (core search facets) – available for majority of collections – collection & object level

- Additional secondary metadata – depends on the collection type and topics

- Metadata population - a lot of manual work!
Metadata demands for UK Quali Bank

Discover, retrieve, examine in context, cite

- Use known XML schemas to capture context and relationships
- Rich descriptive metadata for files
- Ability to add new metadata descriptors and be extensible
- Pre-defined GUIDs used for citation
Description below the collection

- **DDI Codebook 2.5** for basic study-level catalogue metadata

- Limited use of **TEI schema (Text Encoding Initiative)** for mark-up of textual data items (e.g. layout and edits)

- **QuDEx schema (Qualitative Data Exchange)** for rich file-level description, document coding and annotation and intra-collection relationships
  
  Schema at: [www.data-archive.ac.uk/create-manage/projects/qudex/](http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/create-manage/projects/qudex/)
Use of Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)

- Limited use of TEI elements

- To denote structural mark-up
  - TEI header: 3 mandatory elements
  - Body elements: Turn takers, paragraphs, headers
  - Inline tags: Corrections, errors

- Use of randomly generated GUIDs to uniquely identify TEI and QuDEx objects:
  - Collection, Files, Paragraphs (any other part of data)
Reflections

When I left school at the age of 18 I was just taken my 'A' levels. I passed them all with grade C's and A's. I was quite pleased with myself. I got accepted at Essex University on an electronics engineering course. I enjoyed the time I spent at university although I didn't like living away from home. After I needed to go home every so often though. After getting the necessary qualifications I left to find a job. That was much easier than it was before even though the unemployment was higher then. I think finding a job was one of the most pleasing moments of my life. I haven't enjoyed learning much at all but putting it into practice was much better. I was twenty-two by this time and so I felt great having a job where unemployment was way up to an all time high. It was about this time that I met Anne, my wife. She was two years younger than me and worked for the same company I did. I had met girls at university but
Essay with School Leavers on the Isle of Sheppey

Reflections

When I left school at the age of 16 I was just taking my A levels I passed them all with grade C’s and I was quite pleased with myself. I got accepted at Essex University on an electronic engineering course. It took the time I spent at university although I felt like being away from home was lonely. I used to do home every so often though. After getting the necessary qualifications I left to find a job. That was much easier than it is now even though the unemployment was higher then I think. Finding a job was one of the most pleasing moments of my life. I haven’t enjoyed learning much at all but putting it into practice was much better. I was twenty two by this time and as I felt great having a job where unemployment was very high it colour that I met my wife she was two years younger than me and worked for the same company I did. I had met girls at University but wouldn’t have been so fortunate. I went on to stay in the sixth form where I took A>leave4 [sic] level4 [sic] maths, physics and history I narrowly escaped gaining entrance to a university so far in my life this had been the more protracted at university I tended only to associate with a few people who I had a lot in common with this is how but I would blame that on being an only child. I was 14 when I got my first degree I was a very early age I had been fascinated in the age of fourteen I had regularly attended archaeological sites as an assistant site manager the pay wasn’t much but I was really happy the site manager got attached to a big hole I used to get too attached but one day I had a home so I tried to get a post somewhere where I could continue poking at things that have happened when I had wasted my education on learning something I liked when I should have learnt [sic] to have learnt so I had to decide to live as a probably bachelor doing what I liked or as a some with security and a permanent home on one side was the trap of poverty and on the other a high chance of not having a family I chose to stay as I was a hoop at home and finally get a job I liked where I could still go out and dig but still have a permanent base I worked in a museum and I came I was leapt at it and apart for changing museums all I retired last month. I did get married to someone I met on a archaeological site s very similar tastes in most things and we both shared nearly the same views of life.
Home Intelligence & Morale Reports

EXTERNAL RESOURCES |
Collection documentation
Access this collection from Discover

DETAILS
Collection ID (SN): 7465
Title: Morale and Home Intelligence Reports, 1941-1949
Principal investigator: Home Office
Licence: Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Licence

EXTRA METADATA
Idno: 7465 rpt002
No. pages: 1
Placename: Hansestadt Hamburg
Date of interview: 1948

REPORT
Tel. Ext: 223
09/GOV/3779/S
SECRET
Governmental Group
HQ Hansestadt HAMBURG
609 HQ CCG (BB)
BAOR
5 Mar 48
Subject: Public Safety February 1940 Report on Moral and Public Opinion
Public Health

Paragraphs 29, 27, 23 and 29 of above mentioned Report are appended below for your information:

26. Most Hamburgers consider themselves lucky to have come through the winter without an increase of diseases which medical authorities are not well enough equipped to cope with. The general impression is that the medical services in the Hansestadt have somehow managed to keep control of all new serious dangers to the public health, without being able to prevent the heavy toll of personal suffering during the period of national depression and shortages that have intervened.

https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/QualiBank/Document/?id=q-631d115b-79c7-45ce-9f34-09eda6c2f848
User case study

Case study - research

Personality and gender influence how we cope with illness

Author: Dusane Kesavavuth and Vasileios Zikos, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, and Robert E. Rosenman, Washington State University

Date: 28 January 2016

Type of case study: Research

About the research

Gender and personality matter in how people cope with physical and mental illness, according to a study by researchers from the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Washington State University. The study is part of a wider project exploring personality traits and health satisfaction, and received £2,000 of funding by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Dusane Kesavavuth. Robert E. Rosenman and Vasileios Zikos explored how
Events and gatherings

✓ User meet depositors

✓ Teaching with data – qualitative methods teachers

✓ How to prepare data for sharing
  ✓ Lots of tried and tested fun exercises
  ✓ Consent and ethics always popular

✓ Evangelise - everywhere!
QuDEx Overview

- XML schema for documenting metadata for qualitative data collections (DDI committee). W3C compliant
- Standard way of encoding metadata
  - for exchange between CAQDAS packages
  - for use within data archives and libraries
  - for dissemination systems
- Enables description of complex collections
  - detailed description at the object level, e.g. interview characteristics, interview setting, type of object etc.
  - capture relationships between resources (files)
  - preserve references to annotations performed on data
### QuDEx Collection level metadata

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**Add new item**
### Within-collection object metadata

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QuDEx Category schema

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XML: School Leavers on the Isle of Sheppey

[XML code and text content]
QualiBank system tools

- **BaseX** for metadata and textual data storage and retrieval
  - **DDI 2.5/ DDI Codebook**: collection level
  - **QuDEx**: Limited collection and object level
  - **TEI**: object level - text documents
- **File server** for non-XML docs
- Simple QuDEx metadata data entry tool: **Sharepoint**
- **C#** scripts process and validate against XML schemas;
- **Oxygen** for manual mark-up
- **Solr** indexes used for faceted browsing and TEI text highlighting
- **Xquery on BaseX** for object metadata, text utterances and related materials
- **GUID generator** **SQL database** for QuDEx and TEI elements
- **UI in-house technologies** **.NET** and **RESTful web services/APIs**
QuDex principles
QualiBank guides and references

• QuDex schema
  https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/media/213576/corti_df_qudex13.pdf

• QualiBank User Guide
  https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/media/428412/qualibankguide.pdf

• Showcasing the QualiBank
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMBIgwyEySs
For ESRC award holders

- Upload data to our ReShare data repository, following guidance.
- Harvest project information from ESRC Gateway to Research
- DataCite DOI assigned
- Discover service harvests catalogue information
Idea of volume in ReShare

- **850** data collections published so far in ReShare

- **500** were migrated from previous Fedora system

- **100+** pending
  - in review
  - in the pipeline – being deposited or being sent back after review for actioning
Research Data Discovery System

Datasets

Organisations

About

FAQ

Home > Datasets

Filter by location

Search datasets...

Order by

10,587 datasets found

Anonymised library activity data for the academic years 2007/08, 2008/09 and ...

These data consist of entries for 4,268 anonymised students who graduated from the University of Lincoln with a named award at the end of the academic year 2009/10, along with a...

Plain text list of URIs for www.lincoln.ac.uk (as of 14/02/2010)

This dataset was generated using this tool http://www.auditmypc.com/xml-sitemap.asp. Only publicly accessible pages are included. Excluded are URLs containing .js, .css, .pdf...