

Data Management for Social Survey Research:

Training workshop, 24-25 August 2009

DAMES: www.dames.org.uk

LAB 3: ONLINE RESOURCES FOR DATA MANAGEMENT

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{Open session/discussion}

1. Secure access to data via an online portal: DAMES' e-Health data sources

There are many resources available which offer secure online access to social survey data. In the context of this workshop, interesting applications are those which include significant tasks of data management such as in preparing data and linking data as part of the access process.

We will give a demo talk / video illustrating provisional services in the DAMES Node associated with accessing e-Health data and linking it with other resources.

Some other interesting existing facilities include:

- IPUMS (www.ipums.org) – online access to census microdata, including processing tools such as linking data from related cases (e.g. husbands and wives – see <https://international.ipums.org/international-action/faq.do#ques40>)
- The LIS project (Luxembourg Income Study) which offers remote access to labour force survey data from numerous countries, and associated metadata on the variables and their harmonisation (<http://www.lisproject.org/>)
- In the UK, the Secure data service is expected to offer significant functionality for analysis and preparation with social survey datasets (<http://www.securedata.ukda.ac.uk/>)

2. Coordinated access to supplementary data resources: GEODE and other data on occupations

The 'GESDE' services being developed in DAMES offer access to specialist data on occupations; educational qualifications; ethnicity.

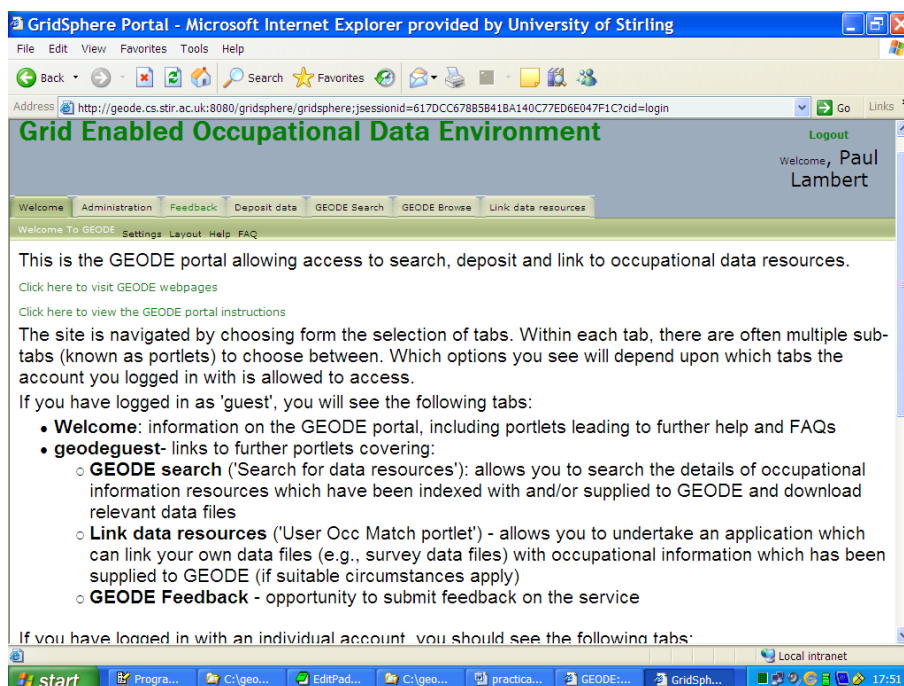
At present, only a prototype service on occupational data is available to the public.

We suggest you enter and explore the GEODE environment. A personalised account for the service has been created for you.

Your username:	Password:
.....

(ask the instructors if you don't yet have a personalised GEODE account)

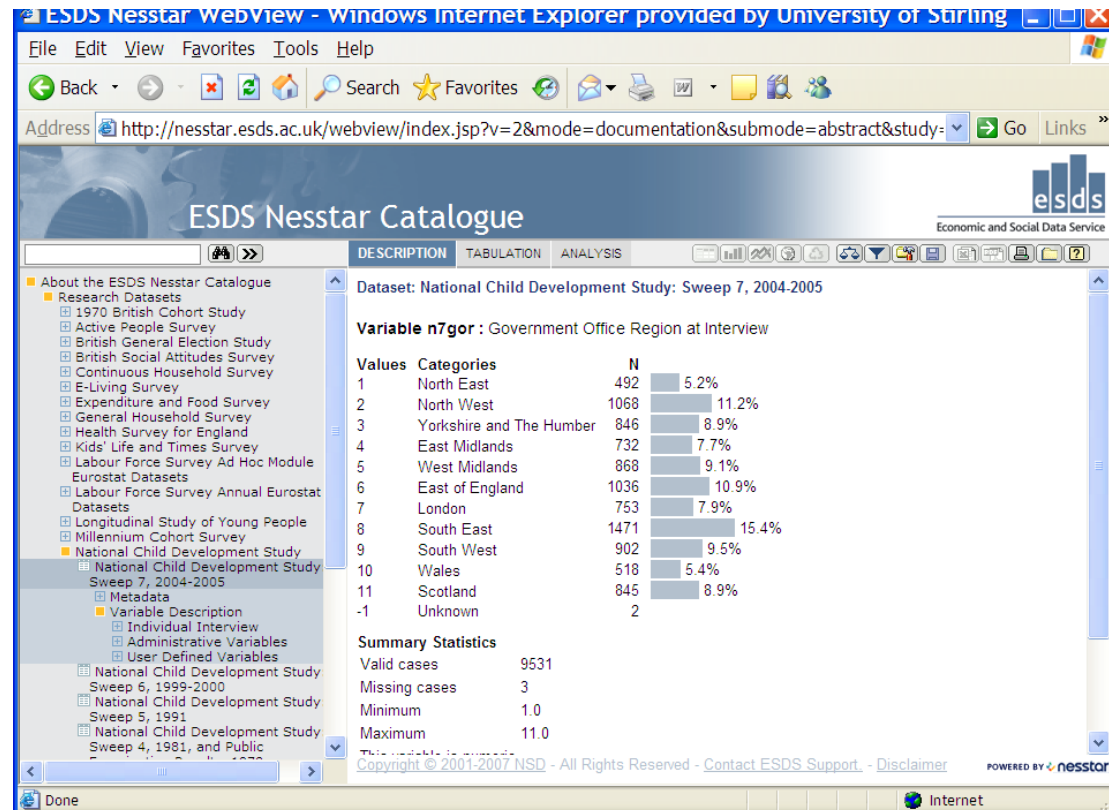
A handout on using the service is included in your packs. If you are very interested in this resource, there is a workbook handout and linked practical data available at <http://www.geode.stir.ac.uk/index.html#workshop>, and these, alongside suitable syntax files, are also included on your workshop files (location d:\dames09\lab3\geode_practical). However, we will soon be updating the GEODE service quite substantially.



3. Facilities for searching for data and metadata: NESSTAR

NESSTAR is perhaps the leading resource for exploring and assessing social survey data in the UK. See:

<http://nesstar.esds.ac.uk/>



Other interesting existing facilities covering survey metadata include:

- The CESSDA data catalogue (<http://www.cessda.org/accessing/catalogue/>)
- SOEPINFO (<http://www.diw.de/english/soepinfo/33900.html>) which offers searchable information on variables associated with the German Socio-Economic Panel, and provides automatically generated command syntax for bespoke access to data
- UK Data Archive catalogue and variable search facilities, e.g.

4. Facilities for searching on data about variable operationalisations: ESDS variables

In the UK, ESDS has prepared a great many resources for finding details on variables and the means with which they were operationalised

We recommend exploring:

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/variables/>

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/dv/>

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/themes/>

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/support/datasetguides.asp>

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/support/statguides.asp>

Other resources of a similar orientation include

- UK National Statistics Harmonisation webpages, which give documentation and recommendations on the derivation of selected social survey variables measures (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/harmonisation/index.html>)
- The UK Data Archive catalogue's 'variables' facility, which lists measures associated with major studies and information about them (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/search/searchStart.asp>)
- The UK Data Archive's HASSET thesaurus, which aims to develop a typology of variable names and details (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/search/hassetSearch.asp>)
- The CESSDA PPP which plans to collate and distribute guidance on the generation and documentation of variables (<http://www.cesda.org/project/>)

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