



## Irish Social Science Data Archive

### Collection Development Policy

The Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) is Ireland's centre for quantitative data acquisition, preservation, and dissemination.

ISSDA provides:

- A central access point for quantitative social science data produced in Ireland that fall within the scope of this collection development policy
- A service to data producers who may wish to deposit their data
- A service to users who may wish to access these data
- A robust, sustainable infrastructure for the preservation of these data

### Introduction

Established in 2000, ISSDA's mission is to ensure wide access to quantitative datasets in the social sciences, and to advance the promotion of international comparative studies of the Irish economy and Irish society. To this end it acquires data from academic, research bodies and public sector sources, supporting:

- Archival preservation
- Secondary use and analysis for research
- Teaching and learning use
- Replication and validation of research

Information about data available through ISSDA is available from [www.ucd.ie/issda](http://www.ucd.ie/issda). Following an application process data are made available free of charge under terms and conditions agreed by depositors of data.

ISSDA will work with research organisations to facilitate the process of depositing data that fall within the scope of this Collection Development Policy.

## Scope of Collection

ISSDA acquires datasets and related documentation relating to Irish society. At the broadest level, it collects anonymised microdata, i.e., data that arises from surveys or administrative records relating to individuals or groups of individuals that have been cleansed of personal identifiers or other information that may enable identification of individuals represented in a dataset. Datasets collected by ISSDA may have the following additional attributes as well:

- **Specific thematic coverage:** Data that assist in the creation of a coherent body of information relating to a particular discipline or field of study, e.g., nutrition, sports participation, etc.
- **Irish geographic coverage:** Data that focuses on Ireland (including Northern Ireland); data that may also include material from other countries where appropriate and in particular where these provide opportunities for comparative research, e.g., European data, migration studies, etc.

In addition ISSDA may seek to acquire resources

- at the specific request or recommendation of a user / group of users
- where there is a funder requirement that the data be deposited in an appropriate data archive
- where the organisation responsible for the having compiled the data ceases to operate / exist

## Criteria for Evaluating Datasets

To ensure that ISSDA continues to collect data resources of high value, criteria are used to evaluate potential datasets acquired by or submitted to the Archive. Depositors are encouraged to identify relevant criteria, including:

- **Relevance:** Does the candidate dataset fall within the Scope of Collection defined above?
- **Format:** Is the dataset and accompanying documentation available in formats that ISSDA identifies as appropriate for deposit?
- **Potential for secondary use:** Is the scope of the data such that re-use will be of interest? Will the dataset complement or be complemented by other data already held by ISSDA? Is there sufficient supporting documentation to enable effective use of the dataset? Have appropriate steps been taken to anonymise the data collection?
- **At risk material:** Are the data at risk of being lost?
- **Access conditions:** Is the depositor willing to access conditions that permit research and/or teaching use and re-use of the data? Does the depositor agree to the long-term preservation of the dataset?