ISSDA
Irish Social Science Data Archive

Reusing Research Data

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

Advantages	Disadvantages
Cost effective & time saving	Data are not collected to answer your specific research questions
Ethical issues about data collection dealt with	Some data may be restricted or anonymisation may be quite extensive
Can spend bulk of time analysing data	Significant effort required to get to know the data

1. Check out the documentation for collection procedures, data cleaning procedures and other technical information.
2. Spend time getting to know and understanding the data.
3. Be practical about whether data are suitable (good enough) for your research.

Documentation helps you to understand the meaning of the data & to evaluate suitability for your research question. It can help you understand exactly what information was collected, from whom, where & when, as well as what was done to the resulting data before it was archived.

Documentation can include:

- Study description (metadata)
- User guide
- Codebook or data dictionary
- Survey questions
- Official reports

ISSDA maintains a **Register of Use** for Growing Up in Ireland and The Irish Longitudinal study on Ageing (TILDA). This contains examples of how other researchers have reused these datasets.

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