McMaster University Library Data Service

Vivek Jadon

October 10, 2006

Agenda

- Mission
- What is Library Data Service (LDS)
- Type of Research Data
- Accessing the Data
- Format of Data files and supported Software
- Canadian Data Sources
- Contact Information

Mission

- The McMaster LDS promotes and facilitates the use of specialized electronic data products for **authorized McMaster users**.
- The LDS exists both as a physical place (Mills Library, room no. L111) and a virtual research facility (http://library.mcmaster.ca/madgic/data.htm).

What is Library Data Service

- The LDS serves as a central point of access to a wide assortment of digital numeric research data files.
- The collection covers a broad range of subject areas with an emphasis on Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Business and Economics.
- Wherever possible, access to these resources is provided through self-serve web interfaces e.g. QWIFS, ICPSRDirect etc.

Type of Research Data

- The data files contain quantitative research data, including public use micro data, aggregate data and time-series databases.
- Library Data Service acquires data files as a member of two major consortia - Statistics Canada's Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) and Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

Accessing the Data

- Access to the data files are restricted to current McMaster University faculty, staff and students for the purposes of teaching, research and private study only. All users seeking access to the survey data files are required to complete a user agreement form at the LDS before accessing the data files. (Individuals who wish to make commercial use of the data files should contact Statistics Canada to obtain their own licensed copy of the data.)
- The access to data is given on a CD-ROM or where ever possible, through self-serve web interfaces such as QWIFS (Queens Web Interface for SPSS), ICPSRDirect etc.

Format of Data files and Supported Software

- Usually the data files are in SPSS and SAS formats.
- Occasionally, Statistics Canada uses their interface system to disseminate data.
- Documentation files comes in .pdf, .wpd, .doc or .txt formats.
- Although SPSS and SAS are supported at LDS, files in many different formats (such as STATA, S-Plus, Access etc.) are converted using Stat/Transfer software.

Canadian Data Sources

- **Data Liberation Initiative**
  http://www.statcan.ca/english/Dli/dli.htm: Provides access to Statistics Canada public use microdata files, databases and geographic files. Use of these files is limited to academic research and teaching purposes.

DLI Data Sets Available Through Library Data Service

- Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)
- National Population Health Survey (NPHS)
- National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)
- Labor Force Survey (LFS)
- International Travel Survey (ITS)
- Canadian Census
- Family Expenditure Survey (FAMEX)
- Survey of Household Spending
- Survey of Financial Security (sfs)
- Adult Education and Training Survey
- Survey of Labor & Income Dynamics (SLID)
- **And many more…**

National Population Health Survey

- Major Focus: information on the health of the Canadian population and related socio-demographic information. In each household, some limited health information is collected from all household members and one person in each household is randomly selected for a more in-depth interview. **Data available: 1994 – 1999.**
- Sample: household residents in all provinces, with the principal exclusion of populations on Indian Reserves, Canadian Forces Bases and some remote areas in Québec and Ontario. For the first cycle, a sample of approximately 20,000 households. For Cycle 3, approximately 49,000 respondents answered the general portion of the questionnaire while approximately 17,000 answered the more detailed health portion.
- Content focus: health status, use of health services (visits to health care providers, both traditional and non-traditional, hospital cares and on use of drugs and other medications), determinants of health, chronic conditions and activity restrictions. Health determinants : smoking, alcohol use and physical activity. New content for the third Cycle of NPHS includes family medical history, self-care and nutrition.
- Other Content:: The socio-demographic information collected includes age, sex, education, ethnicity, household income and labour force status

Canadian Community Health Survey

Major Focus: examine the health determinants, health status of Canadians, aged 12 years and older, and related socio-economic data. **Data available: 2000 – 2005.**

Sample: cross-sectional study at provincial, territorial and health region levels of 130,880 Canadians started in 2000.

Content focus: Alcohol dependence / abuse, chronic conditions, smoking, general health, health care utilization, Injuries, Physical activities, Height / Weight, Disability, etc.

Other Content: labour force participation, education, income and socio-demographic characteristics.

Labour Force Survey

- Major Focus: information on major labour market trends such as shifts in employment across industrial sectors, hours worked, labour force participation and unemployment rates. **Data available: 1976 – 2006.**
- Sample: The monthly LFS sample consists of approximately 50,000 dwellings. From these dwellings, LFS information is obtained for approximately 102,000 civilians aged 15 or over.
- Content Focus: personal characteristics of the working-age population, including age, sex, educational attainment, and family characteristics. Employment estimates include detailed breakdowns by demographic characteristics, industry and occupation, job tenure, and usual and actual hours worked. Unemployment estimates are produced by demographic group, duration of unemployment, and activity before looking for work. Information on industry and occupation, and reason for leaving last job is also available.

Survey of Household Spending

- Major Focus: information on household expenditures, dwelling characteristics, and ownership of household equipment such as appliances, communications and entertainment equipment, and vehicles. **Data available: 1997 - 2004**
- Sample: The survey covers about 98% of the population in the ten provinces. In the Territories, coverage was restricted to 88% in the Yukon, 92% in the Northwest Territories and 89% in Nunavut.
- Content Focus: expenditures for consumer goods and services, changes in assets, mortgages and other loans, and annual income. Information was also collected about dwelling characteristics (e.g. type and age of heating equipment) and household equipment (e.g. appliances, communications equipment, and vehicles).

Canadian Data Sources

- **E-STAT:** http://estat.statcan.ca
  Contains selected tables from CANSIM II and 1986 through 2001 Census profile files. Census tables are for census subdivisions, provinces, and census tracts, arranged by broad subject areas.
- **CANSIM II http://dc2.chass.utoronto.ca/cansim2/index.jsp:**
  Time series statistics ranging from social to economic aspects of Canadian life
- **Canadian Census Analyser**
  http://datacentre.chass.utoronto.ca/census/: The Canadian Census Analyser provides access to Canadian Census Data. The Census Analyser includes access to: 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986 and 1981 Enumeration Area level Profile Tables; 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1971 and 1961 Census Tract level Profile Tables; 2001, 1996 and 1991 Provincial and Federal District Profile Tables and the 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981 and 1971 Individual Microdata Files.

Contact Information

- Location: Mills Memorial Library, Room L111
- Telephone: 905 525-9140 Ext. 23848
- E-mail: vivek@mcmaster.ca
- Hours of Service:

  9:00 am – 1:00 pm

  2:00 pm – 5:00 pm