GPRM 230 — Social Science Research Essentials for Graduates
-- Statistical and geospatial data--

MICRODATA

(More information on this page: http://library.concordia.ca/research/internet/statistics.php)

Definition: data directly observed or collected from a specific unit of observation (individual case: answers from one individual, from one respondent). One needs to use statistical analysis software (SPSS, SAS, Stata) to make sense of these datasets.

STATISTICS CANADA

ODESI (http://clues.concordia.ca/record=e1001350)

Odesi is the self-extraction tool that provides users with microdata files from Statistics Canada's surveys and opinion polls from Gallup, Léger Marketing, etc. Users can retrieve entire files or select individual variables. Odesi also provides the complete documentation (user guides, codebooks). In *search* mode, choose Variable/Category Label from the drop down menu to search for keywords in survey questions and all the possible responses to these questions keywords as well as in the label of individual variables.

DATA LIBERATION INITIATIVE (DLI) WEBSITE
(http://0-www.statcan.gc.ca.mercury.concordia.ca/dli-ild/dli-idd-coll-eng.htm)

Information on datasets available from DLI as well as release dates for new products. The survey documentation (user guides, codebooks, etc) is publicly available but **data can only be downloaded by the data librarian**.

ICPSR (U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MICRODATA)
(http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/index.jsp)

ICPSR is a statistical data repository covering fields such as sociology, political science, economics, demography, education, child care, health care, crime, minority populations, aging, terrorism, substance abuse, mental health, public policy, and international relations. The collection focuses on U.S. issues but also includes several datasets that deal with international and Canadian topics. **You need to create an account to download datasets.**

Geospatial data

(More information on this page: http://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/geospatial-data.html)

Definition: Geospatial data, also known as GIS data, is any numeric data that contains explicit geographic postioning information. These datasets can be accessed and manipulated by *Geographic Information System* software (such as ArcGIS) to produce detailed maps and sophisticated spatial analysis.

Free resources

Increasingly, governments and organizations make the geospatial data they produce available for free.

Canada

Geogratis (http://geogratis.cgdi.gc.ca/) is the exploration and data extraction tool provided by the government of Canada.

Examples of available products: topographic data, digital elevation model (DEM) data, Atlas of Canada

Montreal

The City of Montreal had made a few GIS datasets available though its Open Data platform (http://donnees.ville.montreal.qc.ca/) .

United States

The U.S. Geological Survey (http://www.usgs.gov/) provides access to a very wide range of free resources.

Our collection

In addition to tehse free resources, Concordia Libraries have acquired a number of useful datasets. The collection is described in this guide (http://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/geospatial-data.html)

Quebec government data

This is the core of our collection. It contains many types of data including: orthophotos (numeric aerial photographs), Lidar data (elevation data), large scale topographic data, cadatral data, etc. A more complete list of products is available here: http://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/library/docs/research-guides/geospatial-data/MERN_Datasets.xlsx

DMTI data

(www.concordia.ca/library/guides/geospatial-data/dmti.html)

Datasets purchased form this company include topographic data, detailed road networks, land use data, elevation model data (DEM).

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