

The following document was created by Associate Professor Paul Couchman, of the Department of Marketing at the University of Wollongong. It will be updated regularly and can be accessed through the University of Wollongong website <http://www.uow.edu.au> when its development is complete.

Note that in the Australian system, Business and Management are referred to by the collective term Commerce. Management, as a subdiscipline, denotes HRM; OB; OT; Operations Management, Research and Analysis; Business Policy and Strategy.

RESOURCES TO FACILITATE RESEARCH IN COMMERCE-RELATED DISCIPLINES

INTRODUCTION TO THE RESOURCES (page 1)

This page was set up to provide web-based resources on the theory and practice of social/behavioural research for (a) post-graduate students who are conducting research studies on commerce-related topics, and (b) academic staff in the commerce-related disciplines who are supervising or teaching such students. Originally developed to complement the content of the Faculty's post-graduate research methods course COMM 980 (Business Research Methods), the overall aim of this page is to facilitate access to resources which will provide an understanding of the methodologies underlying research in this area and more practically help with the design of research studies, the collection of data, and the analysis of data.

Doing research in the commerce-related disciplines (which here are taken to include, but not be limited to: Accounting and Finance, Economics, Business Information Systems, Management, and Marketing) is especially challenging for two main reasons. Firstly, the challenge arises from the particular nature of the research topics that are addressed within these disciplines. Fundamentally, these topics embrace the behaviour, and the outcomes resulting from that behaviour, of individuals in specific roles (e.g. as managers, consumers, system users, investors, etc.) and of social groupings at various levels (e.g. teams, the accounting profession, market segments, organizations, etc.). Given this research subject matter, the difficult issue arises as to how we might systematically (or "scientifically" as some would claim) go about designing and conducting studies to address specific issues and problems of interest. Secondly, research in this area is challenging because of the diverse range of academically-acceptable approaches that can be employed. With the exception of Economics, the commerce-related disciplines and sub-disciplines are relatively new, most only becoming institutionalized in the 20th century. The diverse bodies of research in these "new" disciplines tend to be eclectic, drawing on the theories, methodologies and data collection/analysis methods that have been developed in the more established disciplines of the social and behavioural sciences and humanities. The nature of research in commerce disciplines is further complicated by the distinctive practices of applied research (i.e. that conducted on behalf of a specific client to provide information or address a problem and written up in a report which may not enter the public domain) and what could be

particular field and so published in a book or academic journal). Both types of research employ the same methods, but they differ significantly in terms of their clients/audiences and their relationship with theory.

Reflecting the aims of the website and the diverse nature of research in commerce-related areas, the resources presented here are not organized by discipline, but by area of theoretical or practical relevance. The sites have been selected both because of their value as resources and because of their relevance (direct or indirect) to research theory and practice in commerce-related fields.

This page is intended to be a “living” resource, and so will be regularly updated. Any suggestions (for example on how the content could be improved or on other sites which could be included) and feedback is most welcome. Could you please communicate any comments or suggestions to the current web page custodian (Associate Professor Paul K. Couchman, Department of Marketing, University of Wollongong, Northfields Avenue, Wollongong, NSW 2522 Australia. telephone extension 4681, email address paul_couchman@uow.edu.au).

The resources are categorized as follows:

- **Research Methodology and the Philosophy of Social Science**
- **Research Ethics**
- **Databases and Data Archives**
- **Qualitative Research Methods and Qualitative Data Analysis**
- **Action Research, Evaluation and Case Studies**
- **Quantitative Research Methods and Statistical Analysis**
- **Research-related Publications and Electronic Journals**
- **Other Research Resources and Search Sites on the Web**

1. Research Methodology and the Philosophy of Social Science

“All social scientists approach their subject via explicit or implicit assumptions about the nature of the social world and the way in which it may be investigated.” Burrell & Morgan (1979) Sociological Paradigms and Organizational Analysis.

“Empirical social science must start from a properly articulated philosophical base if it is to be successful. The philosophy of the social sciences cannot be an optional activity for those reluctant to get on with the ‘real’ empirical work. It is the indispensable starting-point for all social sciences.” Trigg (1985) Understanding Social Science.

“In adopting an approach to social enquiry, the researcher is buying into a set of choices with far-reaching implications. They therefore need to be given careful consideration. No one approach or strategy, and its accompanying choices on these issues, provides a perfect solution for the researcher; there is no one ideal way to gain knowledge of the social world. All approaches and strategies involve assumptions, judgements and compromises; all are claimed to have deficiencies.” Blaikie (1993) Approaches to Social Enquiry.

Despite the common practice of using the two terms interchangeably, it is perhaps more accurate and indeed more useful to distinguish between research *“methodology”* and research *“methods”*. While **methods** are the procedures (or techniques) used by researchers to collect and analyze data, **methodology** is concerned with more philosophical issues about how we can legitimately investigate and obtain knowledge about the “social world”. In practical terms, a methodology embodies considerations about how a research study should proceed (e.g. of how theories can be generated and tested), and thus provides a *“strategy, plan of action, process or design lying behind the choice and use of particular methods and linking the choice and use of methods to the desired outcomes”* (Crotty, 1998, The Foundations of Social Research). Central to the philosophy of the social sciences are the concepts of **ontology** (a branch of philosophy concerned with “what is”, i.e. the study of being and the nature of “reality”) and **epistemology** (a branch of philosophy concerned with the nature of knowledge, dealing with issues of how we know what we know and so providing a philosophical grounding for deciding what kinds of knowledge are possible, adequate and legitimate). As Burrell and Morgan, among others, have pointed out different ontologies and epistemologies will incline social researchers to different methodologies.

It is now widely acknowledged that there is no “one best way” to do social/behavioural research (i.e. no one universally-accepted social science research methodology). Rather, there is a range of distinctive methodologies each of which is based on a set of assumptions about the nature of social phenomena and how we might study these, and each of which is considered legitimate by one or more communities of scholars.

This is a complex and difficult area (mostly ignored by research practitioners), and often highly controversial (e.g. can the so-called social sciences really be considered “scientific”?). The following links provide access to resources in two

philosophy: ontology and epistemology), and the sociology of knowledge (which studies the social sources and social consequences of knowledge systems and knowledge claims).

Philosophy of Science Resources

A page of resource links to support an undergraduate philosophy course. One set of links are to resources on the topics presented in the course (e.g. history of science, science and culture, science and values). The site also provides links to: general resources on the philosophy of science, sites which deal with philosophy and specific sciences (e.g. biology, cognitive sciences, economics, psychology), philosophy associations and programs, science and technology studies resources, and other philosophy of science courses.

<http://www.augustana.ab.ca/~janzb/science.htm>

Sociology 511 - The Philosophy of Science

Resources and notes for a course on sociological research methodology and methods. Topics covered include: the philosophy of science, the structure of scientific revolutions, the logic of science in sociology, reliability and validity.

<http://www.soc.iastate.edu/sapp/soc511.phil.html>

Philosophy of Social Science

Notes and references for a postgraduate course on the philosophy of the social sciences. Covers competing accounts of the nature of social science, naturalism and causal analysis, social science as interpretation, critical theory and ideology, rational choice theory, and models and mechanisms.

<http://www.ou.edu/ouphil/faculty/chris/philsoc.html>

Social Science Information Gateway: Philosophical Systems

SOSIG links to web resources on philosophical systems. Provides links to collections of documents (articles, papers, reports), individual documents, bibliographies, books, educational materials, journals, mailing lists and discussion groups, organizations and societies, reference materials, and resource guides.

<http://sosig.esrc.bris.ac.uk/roads/subject-listing/World-cat/ethic.html>

Episteme Links: Philosophy Resources on the Internet

A collection of philosophy-related website links organized by branch of philosophy or subject area (e.g. Philosophy and History of Science, Epistemology, Ontology, etc.). Each set has links to web-based encyclopedia entries (including the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy) and to general web sites relevant to the category.

<http://www.epistemelinks.com/>
<http://www.epistemelinks.com/Topi/ScieTopi.htm>
<http://www.epistemelinks.com/Topi/EpisTopi.htm>

The Window - Philosophy on the Internet

A “*comprehensive clearinghouse for philosophy on the web*” with links to a range of sites, including: sites on particular philosophers, pictures, natural language resources, interactive sites, books and online texts, and other research resource sites.

<http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/phil/philo/index.html>

The Value of Knowledge: A Miniature Library of Philosophy

A site with links to downloadable texts of philosophers which “*traces the development of ideas on the relation between consciousness and matter through the words of 120 philosophers over 400 years*”. A Marxist oriented site, it also has links to the works of philosophers and others under such categories as classical epistemology (e.g. Francis Bacon, John Locke, Bishop George Berkeley, Ludwig Feuerbach, etc.), sociology before the Russian Revolution (e.g. Dilthey, Weber, Durkheim), psychology and phenomenology (e.g. Pavlov, Dewey, Adler, Jung, Wittgenstein, Heidegger), cognition and psychology (Lorenz, Laing, Chomsky, Skinner), and post-structuralism (Barthes, Derrida, Lyotard).

http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/front_pg.htm

Guide to Philosophy on the Internet (Suber)

A collection of online philosophy resources, including links to: philosophy guides, philosophers, journals, teaching and learning resources, associations, bibliographies, mailing lists and newsgroups, electronic texts, dictionaries, quotations, jobs, and philosophy search engines (Hippias and Noesis).

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm>

Sociology of Knowledge

Links to resources on the sociology of knowledge, including: essays on “the basics” (i.e. on Karl Mannheim and clarifying the subdiscipline itself), articles on or by contributors to the area, and corollary sites (e.g. actor network theory, socio-cultural theory, internet culture).

http://www.cudenver.edu/~mryder/itc_data/soc_knowledge.html

The Sociology of Knowledge

Notes and links to resources on various aspects of the sociology of knowledge (e.g. perspectives on the concept of knowledge, intellectual traditions, a systems theory approach to knowledge, and case studies in personal and institutional knowledge).

<http://www.trinity.edu/~mkearl/knowledg.html>

Radical Constructivism

A collection of links to sites concerned with the epistemology and concepts of constructivism. Includes links to people (famous constructivists and others interested in this epistemology and approach to research), organizations and institutes, online introductory texts, online books, papers and journals, conferences, software, and other web-based resources.

<http://www.univie.ac.at/cognition/constructivism>

Articles on the "Social Text" Affair

To illustrate just how heated academic debates on methodological issues in the social sciences and humanities can become, this site provides access to the articles and debates that arose from the infamous Sokal hoax. For those not familiar with this fascinating episode, the affair began when a theoretical physicist, Professor Alan Sokal, submitted a bogus article (written as a parody of post-modern science criticism and entitled "*Transgressing the boundaries: toward a transformative hermeneutics of quantum gravity*") to the cultural studies journal Social Text. For this "experiment", aimed at revealing the questionable intellectual basis of much post-modern academic writing, Sokal did not reveal to the editors that the article was a parody. The article was subsequently accepted by the editors and published in the Spring 1996 Special Issue of the journal. Three weeks after publication, Sokal revealed the hoax in another journal and as he, among others, has noted "*all hell broke loose*". This site provides links to the relevant papers by Alan Sokal, the debates and comments by others who pitched in, interviews and reviews on the affair, and to other web sites which address the Social Text affair. Together these accessible documents make very challenging reading!!

<http://www.physics.nyu.edu/faculty/sokal>

2. Research Ethics

All empirical research which involves other people (e.g. as experimental “subjects”, survey “respondents”, interviewees, “participants” in an observational study, and members of “cultures” or groups under study) raises a number of ethical issues and concerns. Nearly all universities, professional associations and research practitioner associations now have explicit statements of ethical principles and associated codes of conduct to address these issues and concerns. The following are sites which provide links to resources on the ethical issues in social and behavioural research.

Institute for the Study of Applied and Professional Ethics: Links to Ethics-Related Websites

<http://webster.dartmouth.edu/artsci/ethics-inst/Othersites.html>

Resources for Teaching Research Ethics

<http://medicine.ucsd.edu/research/ethics/resources/index.htm>

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): Information for Human Research Ethics Committees

<http://www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/ethics/iecinfor.htm>

Ethical Considerations in European Cross-National Research: A Discussion Paper by Marcia Freed-Taylor

<http://firewall.unesco.org/most/ethissj.htm>

On-line Science Ethics Resources

<http://www.chem.vt.edu/ethics/vinny/ethxonline.html>

Centre for Applied Ethics: Applied Ethics Resources on WWW

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm#topics>

The On-Line Journal of Ethics

<http://www.depaul.edu/ethics/ethg1.html>

Ethics Updates (edited by Lawrence M. Hinman)

<http://ethics.acusd.edu/index.html>

The second set of resources under this category are links to actual research-related codes of ethics, formulated by particular organizations (e.g. professional associations and funding bodies).

Canadian “Tri-Council” Code of Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

<http://www.hssfc.ca/Gen/CodeContentsEng.html>

***American Psychological Association (ASA):
Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct***

<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code.html>

American Sociological Association’s Draft Code of Ethics

<http://www.soci.niu.edu/~sssi/ethics/ecoderev.html>

British Sociological Association’s Statement of Ethical Practice

<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/info/ethguide.html>

3. Databases and Data Archives

The Web provides access to a large and growing collection of social and economic research databases and data archives which include: the results from specific surveys (which in some cases may have been repeated over time to provide time series data), national statistics collections (e.g. those provided by government statistics bureaux around the world), and other collections of research findings. The vast bulk of this data is effectively in the public domain, so many research topics can be addressed by accessing this data and without even leaving your office!

Australian National University Social Science Data Archives

An archive set up to (a) collect and preserve computer-based data relating to Australian social, political and economic issues, and (b) make the data available to researchers for further analysis. The data sets in the archive have resulted from research by academics, government agencies, and other private organizations and individuals. As a member of the International Federation of Data Organizations (FIDO), the SSDA can also provide access to data from FIDO members in other countries.

<http://ssda/anu/edu.au>

Australian Bureau of Statistics

As a federal government agency, the ABS is Australia's official statistical organization which produces a wide range of national statistics, including: the Census of Population and Housing, key national economic indicators (e.g. the Consumer Price Index, Gross Domestic Product, Unemployment Rate, Average Weekly Earnings, Retail Trade, New Motor Vehicle Registrations, International Merchandise Trade, etc.), regular surveys of business (e.g. the annual Manufacturing Industry Survey), regular trade and labour market surveys, and other *ad hoc* surveys (e.g. the 1991 Manufacturing Technology Survey). This site provides access to: ABS products and services, information updates (e.g. on key national indicators), a statistical profile of Australia, special articles and other papers on Australian statistics, the Census collections, ABS directories, the Commonwealth Register of Surveys of Businesses, and links to other statistical agencies.

<http://www.statistics.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/Homepage>

New Zealand Social Science Research Data and Information Services Centre

A clearing house for a range of resources on New Zealand social science research, including social research data archives and information database services. Still under development at November 1999.

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/~NZSRDA>

Provides links to national economic and financial statistics in most world regions, including Asia and Oceania. The Asian collections cover: Singapore, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and the ASEAN/ASIAN blocs.

<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/libray/stat/statdata.htm>

ICPSR Data Archive

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) maintains a browsable/searchable collection of datasets in 18 broad categories (e.g. national census enumerations, community and urban studies, economic behaviour and attitudes, organizational behaviour, social indicators, social institutions and behaviour). It also provides links to other data directories and Web sites of interest.

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/contents.html>

Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA)

CESSDA promotes the acquisition, archiving and distribution of electronic data for social science teaching and research in Europe. Its homepage has an integrated catalogue of European social science data archives, and a map with links to social research data around the world. The site provides access to the data catalogues of member organizations and has a central news forum about CESSDA activities and other relevant information.

<http://www.nsd.uib.no/cessda/index.html>

The General Social Survey Data and Information Retrieval System (GSSDIRS)

The General Social Survey is an annual personal interview survey of US households which has been conducted by the National Opinion Research Centre since 1972. This site provides a background to the GSS, full documentation on the methods used (including the codebooks), a GSS bibliography, trends in GSS variables, and access both to raw GSS data and to statistical analyses on this data.

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/GSS99/index.html>

University of California San Diego: Data on the Net

A searchable/browsable site with links to 442 other sites that have numeric social science data ready to download, 98 data libraries and data archives worldwide, 107 catalogues and lists of data, and 48 organizations that sell data sets. The site also provides access to 153 social science "gateways".

<http://odwin.ucsd.edu/idata/>

Mainly US, but some international, national statistical data categorized by topic area (e.g. agriculture, business and industry, housing, demographics, health, economics, politics, etc.). Also provides links to US Government resources on the Web.

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.centre/stats.html>

Harvard – MIT Data Centre

This web site is the principal distributor of quantitative social science data for three US universities: Harvard, MIT and Michigan. It maintains a large library of electronic data from a number of sources, a growing collection of unique data sets, and an extensive codebook library.

<http://data.fas.harvard.edu/>

Social Sciences Virtual Library: Directories and Data Archives

Provides links to databases and data archives in three world regions: (a) Asia, Australia, New and Zealand, (b) European Union, and (c) North America.

<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/socsci/directs.htm>

Data Resources for Sociologists

A listing of sites which provide publicly-available data sets for further analysis. Compiled by the American Sociological Association and derived from Data Resource Poster Sessions at the Annual Meetings of the ASA.

<http://www.asanet.org/data.htm>

Qualidata: ESRC Qualitative Data Archival Resource Centre

A centre set up to facilitate and document the archiving of qualitative research data. A major function of the centre is to maintain a database about the extent and availability of qualitative research material from a wide range of social science disciplines. Available data sets can be identified through an on-line catalogue, Qualicat.

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/qualidata/>

4. Qualitative Research Methods and Qualitative Data Analysis

These are sites which provide information and resources specifically on qualitative research methods and the issues associated with this form of social/behavioural research. The sites cover both qualitative data collection methods and resources for the analysis of qualitative data. The first set of links are to general qualitative research resources.

QualPage: Resources for Qualitative Researchers

This site provides an extensive collection of resources and links related to qualitative research, including: news and announcements, conceptual and philosophical foundations, disciplines, discussion forums, e-journals, methods, organizations, papers and conference proceedings, publishers, and qualitative data analysis software resources.

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~jrnorris/qual.html>

Sociological Resources Online: Qualitative Researching Issues and Debates

A discussion forum, aimed at stimulating debate on key issues within sociology, which enables contributors to comment on refereed articles, book reviews, research resources, and specific thematic issues relevant to qualitative research.

<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/threads/qual/qual.html>

Forum: Qualitative Social Research

A multi-lingual online journal for qualitative research. Its main aim is to promote discussion and cooperation among qualitative researchers from different countries and social science disciplines.

<http://qualitative-research.net/fqs/fqs-eng.htm>

The Qualitative Report

A product of the Qualitative Inquiry Project at Nova Southeastern University (USA), the Report is a regular online publication which provides news, articles and other features on qualitative research and critical inquiry.

<http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/index.html>

Qualitative Research in Information Systems

Aims to provide qualitative researchers (notably those doing research on information systems) with useful information on the conduct, evaluation and publication of qualitative research. Provides access to various resources, including: philosophical perspectives, research methods, modes of analysis and software tools, citations on qualitative research, and the teaching qualitative research.

<http://www.auckland.ac.nz/msis/isworld/>

Association for Qualitative Researchers

An international organization which aims to further the practice and study of qualitative research. Its objectives include: to improve the theory, practice and use of qualitative research, to provide a forum for the discussion of relevant ideas, to link those with an interest in qualitative research, to provide education and training qualitative research methods, and to establish ethics and standards in the practice of qualitative research.

International Institute for Qualitative Methodology

A Canadian based organization which conducts qualitative research, provides training in and disseminates information on qualitative research methods. It manages the QualNews web-based mailing list which provides information on news and events at the Institute.

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~iiqm/iiqmHomePages/welcome.html>

Qualitative Research E-mail Resources

A set of mailing lists relevant concerned with or relevant to qualitative research.

<http://socsci.colorado.edu/SOC/RES/qualist.html>

The second set of sites under this category provide access to qualitative data analysis resources (mainly computer software, of which there is now quite a selection).

Text Analysis Software Sources

Focusing on computer-based text analysis, this page provides information on software, data archives, articles, newsgroups, and other qualitative data analysis resources.

<http://www.intext.de/TEXTANAE.HTM>

Qual-Software

An email discussion group which provides a forum for users and developers to exchange ideas, air problems, offer opinions and argument, and share advice on computer-based qualitative data analysis software.

<http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists-p-t/qual-software/>

Qualitative Solutions and Research (QSR)

A company which develops and supports two widely-used QDA software programs, "NUDIST" and "Nvivo". The site provides a range of resources, including an overview of the two programs, events and news, and training and support.

<http://www.qsr.com.au/>

Research Support

The homepage of Dr Pat Bazely, ex Research Director at UWS Macarthur and a specialist in the usage of NUDIST and Nvivo. Research Support is her company through which she offers research development, research training, research consulting and project support to organizations and individuals. This site provides details of her training programs and also access to a range of qualitative

<http://www.acenet.com.au/~patb/>

Qualis Research: The Ethnograph

The Ethnograph was one of the first programs to pioneer computer-assisted qualitative data analysis. The Ethnograph is a Windows-based program which facilitates the analysis of text-based qualitative data (e.g. interview transcripts, field notes, open-ended survey questionnaire responses, and other text-based documents). It is distributed by Scolari Sage Publication software.

<http://www.qualisresearch.com/main.htm>
<http://www.scolari.co.uk>

ResearchWare: HyperRESEARCH

Another software tool for QDA (available in Macintosh and PC formats), enables researchers to code and retrieve data, build theories, and conduct analyses of collected data. It has advanced multi-media capabilities, and can work with text, graphics, audio and video sources.

<http://www.researchware.com/>

WinMAX

A user-friendly Windows program for text analysis with integrated qualitative and quantitative analysis procedures. All data can be exported into a statistical package, such as SPSS.

<http://www.winmax.de/heade.htm>

ATLAS.ti (“The Knowledge Workbench”)

A Windows-based visual qualitative data analysis program which enables the researcher to work with large bodies of textual, graphical, audio and video data. It offers a variety of tools to systematically analyze so-called “soft data”. The main strategic modes of operation are: visualization, integration, serendipity, and exploration. Also distributed by Scolari Sage Publication Software.

<http://www.atlasti.de/atlasneu.html>
<http://www.scolari.co.uk>

Code-A-Text

A Windows-based multi-media tool for teaching and research using dialogues, transcriptions or protocols with individuals or groups. Includes a transcription system with facilities for recording and transcribing audio files. Has the usual text analysis procedures, such as coding and archiving.

5. Action Research, Evaluation and Case Studies

These are three specific research designs or strategies, each with its own distinctive frameworks for organizing the collection and analysis of data, that are commonly deployed in commerce-related studies.

Action Research Papers

A set of resources presented as a beginner's guide to action research and which supports a teaching program called "areol", i.e. action research and evaluation online.

<http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/sawd/arr/guide.html>

Action Research Resources

Provides links to a substantial collection of sites focusing on action research. The sites linked include: online journals, mailing lists, papers, readings, books and other texts, theses and dissertations, action research in progress, and abstracts from the annual conferences of the Action Learning, Action Research and Process Management Association.

<http://www.scu.edu.au/shools/gcm/ar/arhome.html>

PARnet Participatory Action Research

Aimed at students, academics and other practitioners "*who share a commitment to promoting high standards of intellectual and social integrity in doing social research for social change.*" Provides resources and links of relevance to this form of action research.

<http://www.PARnet.org/>

Resources for Methods in Evaluation and Social Research

Links to free resources on evaluation and social research with a focus on the practical aspects of evaluation and research methods. Includes links to organizations (e.g. American Evaluation Association), online books, manuals and guides, other methods sites, statistics and design, and theory and politics.

<http://members.localnet.com/~shackman/evalwebs.html>

<http://redrival.net/evaluation>

Links to Societies and Other Evaluation Sites

The UK Evaluation Society's links to other evaluation organizations (in Australia, USA, Germany, Canada, and Europe generally) and evaluation-related discussion groups.

<http://www.evaluation.org.uk/Frames/Pages/links.htm>

Australasian Evaluation Research Centre (Evalnet)

Provides links to a diverse range of evaluation-related information resources on the web and to a database of evaluation consultants and authors. Information resources are structured around “research centres” each of which is an interest area for members of the Australasian Evaluation Society. The research centres include: evaluation theory and process, community development, economic development, education, health, and management practice. Each centre provides access to research findings, teaching resources, sister sites, search engines, and discussion lists. There are also centres with an employment sector focus (e.g. Commonwealth Government, State Government, Local Government, etc.).

<http://203.32.109.1/evalnet/best.htm>

American Evaluation Association

This association is “*devoted to the application and exploration of evaluation in all its forms*”. The AEA’s web page provides information about the association and its activities, and also links to: AEA topical interest groups (e.g. TIG on Teaching of Evaluation), AEA local affiliates in the USA, other national evaluation associations, general evaluation sites, statistics-related sites, and US Government agencies and databases.

<http://www.eval.org/>

Ericae.net: ERIC Clearinghouse for Assessment, Evaluation and Research Information

Part of the very extensive US-based Educational Resources Information Centre (ERIC), Ericae.net provides links to resources on educational assessment, evaluation and research methodology. It is both browsable and searchable.

<http://www.ericae.net/>

6. Quantitative Research Methods and Statistical Analysis

Quantitative research, as the term implies, is concerned with measurement and numerical analysis. While all forms of social/behavioural research can involve an element of quantitative analysis, quantification is central to some methodologies in the social/behavioural sciences (notably those informed by positivist and post-positivist epistemologies, such as Psychology and Economics). The main methods used in these approaches are surveys, experiments, and quasi-experimental designs. Each of these uses specific procedures to collect data, but all draw on the same body of statistical methods to analyze the data collected.

- **Links to Resources on Social Surveys**

American Statistical Association: Survey Research Methods Section

This site provides a set of links and resources (including a downloadable series of ASA papers with such titles as “What is a survey?”) on: the activities of this section of the ASA, the ethical issues associated with surveys, other relevant organizations (e.g. the American Association for Public Opinion Research), survey data analysis software, and conferences and publications of relevance to survey research.

<http://www.stat.ncsu.edu/info/srms/srms.html>

The International Social Survey Programme

The ISSP is an annual programme of cross-national collaboration on surveys. It brings together existing social research projects and coordinates research goals, thereby adding a cross-national and cross-cultural perspective to individual national studies. As of March 2000, researchers from 34 countries were members of the ISSP. The site provides information on surveys conducted over the period 1985 to 1999, and access to data archives and publications.

<http://www.issp.org/>

Bill Trochim's Research Methods Knowledge Base: Survey Research

A hypertext manual which covers: types of surveys, selection of a survey method, constructing survey instruments, interviewing, and the advantages and disadvantages of survey methods.

<http://trochim.human.cornell.edu/kb/survey.htm>

The Centre for Applied Social Surveys (CASS) Question Bank

An accessible repository of complete questionnaires from large-scale policy-relevant social surveys conducted in the UK. The site was established as a resource for social science researchers and educators. The site also provides an extensive range of links on social science research by subject (e.g. social survey

http://qb.soc.surrey.c.uk/nav_ns/fr_home.htm

Web Survey Methodology

The aim of this site is to provide access to information and resources on web-based survey methods. The idea was first discussed at the 1998 annual meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. The site presents links to news/conferences/tutorials/workshops, relevant bibliography, companies providing resources and tools for this type of research, on-line discussion groups, and to researchers interested or engaged in conducting surveys over the web.

<http://surveys.over.net/method/>

Princeton University Survey Research Center

Aims to provide “everything useful on the web for the practice of survey research”. Has links to opinion poll and survey findings and data, survey research practice resources, survey research centres, market research companies facilities and information, and organizations related and relevant to survey research (e.g. government sources, associations and societies).

<http://www.princeton.edu/~abelson/index.html>

• Links to Resources on Experiments

EDGAR: Experimental Design Generator and Randomizer

EDGAR is a program which generates experimental designs and randomizes the position of experimental treatments in the design. The program can be accessed via the web, and has been developed and is maintained by the John Innes Centre for Crops Research in the UK. Provides background information on the principles of experimental design and discusses the scope and limitations of EDGAR.

<http://www.jirc.bbsrc.ac.uk/services/statistics/edgar.htm>

American Psychological Society: Psychological Research on the Net

Links to known experiments, and other forms of research (mainly surveys), conducted via the web. Organized by general topic area (e.g. clinical psychology, cognition, emotions, industrial/organizational, social psychology, etc.).

<http://psych.hanover.edu/APS/exponnet.html>

Bill Trochim's Research Methods Knowledge Base: Experimental Research Design

Introduces types of research design, distinguishing between experimental and quasi-experimental designs. Also discusses: internal validity, the distinction

<http://trochim.human.cornell.edu/kb/design.htm>

Experimental Psychology Lab

A site for the conduct of experiments via the web and championing web-based experimental methodology. Provides a series of experiments in which visitors to the site can participate as subjects, discusses the disadvantages of traditional forms of experiments (e.g. non-representative samples) and compares these to the advantages of web-based experiments (e.g. potentially very large samples are possible).

<http://www.psych.unizh.ch/genpsy/Ulf/Lab/WWWExpMethod.html>

• **Links to General Statistics Resources on the Web**

Statistical Science Web

A page of links to other statistics-related sites, covering: societies, conferences, people, departments and units, mailing lists and news groups, teaching resources (including courses and data sets), research funding and methods, jobs, statistical computing, and publications.

<http://www.maths.uq.oz.au/~ks/webguide/index.html>

WWW Resources for Statisticians

Provides links not only to statistics services and resources on the web, but also to other lists of links on statistics.

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Rainer_Wuerlaender/statwww.htm

InterStat - Statistics on the Internet

An on-line “journal” (but with an accumulation of articles rather than a series of issues) where articles on any aspect of statistical research or innovative methods can be “published” and commented on by viewers. Papers are submitted to an editor who makes a decision as to whether it should be published. Once accepted the paper is made available in downloadable form (as a Portable Document Format or Postscript file). The articles on the site can be searched by year, keyword, title or author.

<http://interstat.stat.vt.edu/interstat/intro.html-ssi>

The Data and Story Library (DASL)

An online library of data files and stories that can be used to illustrate the use of basic statistics methods. Data is derived from a wide range of topic areas in order to provide statistics teachers with “real-world” examples. Each story applies a particular statistics method to a set of data. Each data file has one or more associated stories. Data can be downloaded as tab-delimited text files

story title, statistical method, topic area, data file subject, and full-text words or names (e.g. Fisher).

<http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/DASL/>

***California State University Social Sciences Research and Instructional Council
Teaching Resources Depository Home Page***

Provides access to a range of resources, mostly concerned with statistical analysis of survey data. Includes: teaching modules (research methods chapters plus downloadable codebooks, data sets and exercises), access to an online version of an introductory SPSS text, stand-alone exercises for social research methods courses which use statistics software, other teaching materials (e.g. Web exercises, research paper guide, etc.), a glossary of terms, and links to other social science research teaching and research sites on the Web.

<http://www.csu.bak.edu/ssric/welcome.htx>

• **Statistical Analysis Methods: Learning Resources**

Of perhaps the greatest utility to research students and practitioners are those sites which offer instructional materials on statistical methods and their application. These materials come in the form of online hypertext textbooks, statistics course or tutorial resources and notes, and statistical analysis tools. If you have a problem or query relating to the use of statistics in research (e.g. how can I apply a factorial between-subjects ANOVA test? What does statistical significance testing mean?), or if university statistics courses leave you with more questions than answers, then these sites are a good place to look for insight and solutions to your problems.

StatPages: Statistical Books, Manuals and Journals

Provides links to an extensive range of accessible online texts, including statistics textbooks (e.g. HyperStat Statistics Textbook), texts related to specific statistics software (e.g. SPSS for Beginners), reference compendia and glossaries, and online journals (e.g. InterStat – Statistics on the Internet).

<http://members.aol.com/johnp71/javasta3.html>

The Statistical Instruction Internet Palette (SIIP)

A hypertext document and a range of interactive web-based resources on statistical methods. Includes: an equation gallery, links to data on the web, a statistics encyclopedia, a data gallery, a computing studio, and a graphing studio.

<http://research.ed.asu.edu/siip/>

SurfStat Australia

An online text in introductory statistics, providing coverage of basic statistical concepts and methods (e.g. summarizing and presenting data, statistical inference, etc.), and with links to various online resources, such as statistics textbooks, Java applets for statistical analyses, exercises and other statistics sites.

<http://surfstat.newcastle.edu.au/surfstat/main/surfstat.html>

StatSoft Electronic Textbook

An online hypertext textbook which presents training in the understanding and application of statistics. Begins with an overview of elementary or pivotal concepts (e.g. what are variables? Correlational versus experimental research, dependent and independent variables, etc.) and continues with a more in-depth treatment of specific areas. The text is organized in modules, each representing a class of analytical techniques, that are accessible by buttons. Also provides a glossary of statistical terms and a list of references for further study.

<http://www.statsoft.com/textbook/esc1.html>

PA 765 Statnotes: An Online Textbook

This online textbook is a supporting resource for a postgrad course on Multivariate Analysis for Public Administration. It has modules on: (a) the writing of empirical papers, theses and dissertations, (b) the use of a range of statistical methods (e.g. ANOVA, factor analysis, logistic regression, and structural equation modeling), and (c) additional topics of relevance to the course on data collection and analysis methods (e.g. cross-tabulation, ethnographic research, probability, significance testing, sampling and simulation).

<http://www2.chass.ncsu.edu/garson/pa765/index.shtml>

HyperStat Online

An introductory level hypertext statistics book. Covers the basic statistics concepts and methods (e.g. describing univariate data, describing bivariate data, an introduction to probability, etc.) and provides links to other online statistics resources. Offers statistical analysis tools, instructional demos and exercises.

<http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/index.html>

Introductory Statistics: Concepts, Models and Applications

Supporting notes and resources, in the form of an online hypertext textbook, for an introductory course on statistics for the behavioural sciences. Course objectives are to enable students to: (a) understand the relationship between statistics and the scientific method as applied to psychology and the behavioural sciences, (b) to understand statistics presented in journals, and (c) calculate and

algebra, and then covers basic concepts from measurement through to hypothesis testing.

<http://www.psychstat.smsu.edu/introbook/sbk01m.htm>

COE 502 Introduction to Quantitative Methods

The web-based content of a QM course (which is also largely web-delivered). The purpose of the course is to provide instruction in how to perform basic statistical analyzes using a spreadsheet program. The site provides a series of lessons (e.g. Lesson One: Graphing and Tabulating Data), assignments, exercises and other resources for the course (including links to other online resources).

<http://glass.edu.asu/edu/stats/>

Quantitative Methods for Public Administration

A sequence of two online courses designed to give public administration students the opportunity to develop the quantitative and analytic skills necessary for their professional work. The first course on quantitative skills introduces students to exploratory data analysis, inferential data analysis, and some basic philosophical and ethical issues in quantitative analysis and research methods. The second course focuses on management computing and the development of management/policy information systems.

<http://plsc.uark.edu/book/class/methods/methods.htm>

• Statistical Analysis Software

Stat/Math Centre: Statistical Software Support

Provides an overview of various statistics packages (e.g. Lisrel, SPSS, SAS, Systat, etc.), evaluating each of them according to functionality, help resources, availability, and local support. Also provides information about each of the programs, including a buyer's guide and online resources (e.g. tutorials, examples and dedicated web resources).

<http://www.indiana.edu/~statmath/stat/>

Interactive Statistical Pages

Is the homepage of a project to develop and disseminate statistical analysis software in the form of web pages. Uses HTML forms CGI and Perl scripts, JavaScript and other browser-based technologies, each web page on the site enables the user to conduct a particular statistical analysis.

<http://members.aol.com/johnp71/javasta6.html>

SticiGui: Statistical Tools for Internet and Classroom Instruction with a Graphical User Interface

A set of Java tools which enable users to interactively learn about various statistics concepts (e.g. Chi-square distribution, normal probabilities, sampling distributions, etc.). Is a hypertext presentation, with explanatory text and interactive demonstration examples (e.g. what happens to sample statistics and histograms when the sample size is increased).

<http://www.stat.Berkeley.EDU/users/stark/SticiGui/index.htm>

The Idea Works Inc. - The Methodologist's Toolchest

The Idea Works develops and sells expert systems for research design and for instruction. The Methodologist's Toolchest is a complete integrated package of all the expert systems for research, and includes 9 modules which help researchers at nearly every stage of the research design process (e.g. Peer Review Emulator, Statistical Navigator, Designer Research, Hyper-Stat, and ETHX). The toolchest is distributed exclusively worldwide by Scolar Sage Publications Software.

<http://www.ideaworks.com/>
<http://www.scolari.com>

SPSS Inc.

The homepage of SPSS Inc. (developers and marketers of one of the most widely used statistical analysis packages for the social sciences) provides access to information about its products and services, support resources, worldwide distributors, and latest developments in the use of the statistics software. The site also provides access to other resources such as downloadable online papers and a bibliography of books and references on the use of SPSS.

<http://www.spss.com/>

SAS Institute Inc.

The homepage of the SAS Institute (another widely-known organization producing statistical analysis software for the social and behavioural sciences) provides access to information about its software (including downloadable demos), its consulting and support services, user groups, the Institute and its commitment to education. The site also provides access to news about the use of SAS software (e.g. in different application areas, such as data mining and customer relationship management) and to various resources for SAS software users.

<http://www.>

7. Research-related Publications and Electronic Journals

Social Science Paper Publisher

An international, informal electronic journal for writing and research which is broadly sociological. Publishes externally-refereed articles and book reviews.

<http://www.sspp.net/>

Social Science Research Network

Devoted to the rapid worldwide dissemination of social science research. Consists of five specialized research networks covering: accounting research, economics research, financial economics, Latin American, and legal scholarship. Encourages the early distribution of research findings by publishing submitted abstracts and by soliciting abstracts of top quality research papers around the world. Has a browsable/searchable SSRN Electronic Library through which abstracts and downloadable full text papers can be obtained.

<http://www.ssrn.com>

Social Research Update

A quarterly online journal, published by the Department of Sociology at the University of Surrey, with each issue covering a specific research methods topic (e.g. analyzing qualitative data by computer, ethnographic writing, using e-mail as a research tool, anticipating the problems of contract social research, etc.).

<http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/sru/Sru.html>

Sociological Research Online

Publishes high quality applied sociology, focusing on theoretical, empirical and methodological discussions which engage with current political, cultural and intellectual debates. Issues, edited by Liz Stanley and Larry Ray, are published quarterly on the last days of May, August, November, and February.

<http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/misc/library/ejournal.htm>

Electronic Journal of Sociology

“Recognizing that the current scholarly communication system is in financial crisis ... and recognizing that there is considerable potential inherent in information technology to reduce the cost of distributing scholarly information, it is the mission of the EJS ... to demonstrate that high quality, low cost, and non-commercial alternatives ... are possible.” EJS is offered free of charge to individuals, libraries, academic and other organizations. It is part of, and a model for, a new publishing paradigm whereby the scholars themselves retain control over all aspects of the scholarly communication process. In addition to providing information about the journal, this site also has links to other full-text electronic

<http://www.sociology.org/main.html>

8. Other Research Resources and Search Sites on the Web

Sites providing general information about the social sciences, and especially links to other research-related resource sites. These sites are often good places to start a search for a specific topic, and indeed a number of them offer search engines for this very purpose.

The Social Sciences Virtual Library

The definitive resource site, part of the World Wide Web Virtual Library, and which provides access to: directories and data archives, social science e-journals, scholarly societies, resources by subject area, and a social sciences discussion group.

<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/socsci/>

Social Sciences Information Gateway (SOSIG)

A UK-based site (partly funded by the ESRC) which provides access to a wide range of “quality information sources” across the web (categorized under UK, Europe and the World) through a searchable and browsable database.

<http://sosig.esrc.bris.ac.uk/>

Business and Technology Research Library: A Business Researcher's Interests

An extensive “knowledge map” of contemporary business, management and information technology issues providing access to papers, journals, case studies, tools and other resources. Includes a research “jump-station” and a large collection of search engines. Searchable and browsable through a metaindex of 20 topical sections (e.g. business and technology, e-commerce, intellectual property, etc.).

<http://www.brint.com/interest.html>

The Scout Report for the Social Sciences

A bi-weekly update on new internet resources relevant for social science researchers, teachers and research users. Covers research, learning resources, new databases, and news items.

<http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/report/sr/current/index.html#1>

Sociological Research Online: World Wide Web Directory

Provides many links to sociology sites, including academic departments around the world, sociology and related associations, journals, newsgroups and discussion lists, personal home pages relating to sociology, and other resources.

http://www.socresonline.org.uk/pinboard/links_dir.html

Resource Guide for the Social Sciences

A UK site (funded partly by the ESRC) providing access to a wide range of resources aimed at meeting the needs of those researching or studying in the social sciences. Covers: bibliographic, reference and research information, online publications, subject gateways, data services, learning and teaching resources, and other support services.

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/subject/socsci/>

Craig Mckie's Research Resources for the Social Sciences

An extensive range of resources, organized under 18 sections, covering data archives and resources under disciplinary areas, e.g. sociology and anthropology, news and journalism, economics, geography, etc.

<http://www.carleton.ca/~cmckie/research.html>

<http://www.unesco.org/most/research.html>

Social Science Hub

An Australian-based site, oriented towards (but not exclusively concerned with) anthropology, covering: sites by subject area, publications, news (mass media and research -related), country links, interactive forums, databases, and search engines (including specialized research engines).

<http://www2.dynamite.com.au/kiwisunf/ss.htm>

Research Resources in Social Science

Aims to provide links to "high quality, reliable, non-biased information in a range of areas including: economics, sociology, anthropology, communication and media, political science, history, geography, law, psychology, and philosophy.

<http://www.researchresources.net/>

Dmoz Open Directory Project: Social Sciences Methodology

A "Yahoo-like" presentation of resource links under 13 categories which range from action research, ethics, grounded theory, scientific method, statistics to surveys.

http://www.dmoz.org/Science/Social_Sciences/Methodology/

Social Science Research Methods: Resources for Teachers

A range of resources to support the teaching of research methods and statistical analysis compiled by Roland Hawkes (whose approach inspired this webpage): "I have not tried to include every possible link dealing with methods and statistics.

to other resources. Following these paths will get you to most of the methods and statistics information on the web.”

<http://www.siu.edu/~hawkes/methods.html>

The SocioWeb

An independent guide to sociological resources on the web. Categories include: journals, learning sociology, sociological theory, sociological associations, sociology in action, surveys and statistics, topical research, university departments, and articles.

<http://www.socioweb.com/~markbl/socioweb/>

Research Engine for Social Scientists

A Harvard University site which covers psychology, sociology, social anthropology, and related resources (i.e. government, education, computing and statistics). Each of the discipline-based resource sets covers: professional societies and organizations, conferences, newsgroups, mailing lists, reference resources, and other web sites around the world.

<http://wjh-www.harvard.edu/soc-sci/resengine.html>

Virtual International Business and Economics Sources (VIBES)

Provides an extensive array of links to accessible sources of international business and economic information. Information sources include: full-text files of recent articles and research reports, statistics, and links to other sources.

<http://linweb.uncc.edu/ref-bus/vibehome.htm>

Also of interest in this category are sites which provide an introductory background to research methods using hypermedia (as in an inline tutorial or knowledge base). Two examples are the following:

About Research Methods

“We intend to develop materials that will be both tutorial in nature and involve simulation. Tutorials present information and can test knowledge acquisition, while simulations allow for the kind of conditional branching that is true interactivity.” Materials cover five basic research methods: experiments, correlation, surveys, naturalistic observation, and case studies. Provides a HyperCard interactive tutorial program, which can also be explored through the Web, entitled “Research Methods in the Social and Natural Sciences”.

<http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/proj/rm/into.html>

Bill Trochim’s Centre for Social Research Methods

about defining a research question, sampling, measurement, research design, and data analysis.

<http://trochim.human.cornell.edu/>

- **Research Using the Web**

Finding resources and information on the Web can be like looking for the proverbial “needle in a haystack”; information overload is a major problem here! It becomes even more of a problem when the Web is used as a source of research data. But help is at hand. There is now a number of pages which offer help and other resources for conducting research on the net.

SOFWeb Resource Centre: Research on the Net

An introduction to doing research on the web, which is part of the SOFWeb Resource Centre’s set of teaching resources on “Using the Internet”. This introduction covers planning the research project, looking for resources and the use of search engines, evaluating resources, and the citation of web-based resources.

<http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/internet/research.htm>