





Launch of new Qb Interface!

The Question bank are pleased to announce the launch of their new website as from Monday 22 January. The old Qb site was looking out of date and did not meet accessibility guidelines. The Qb team have therefore worked hard to implement user feedback and produce a new, more accessible and user-friendly interface for the Qb resource. The following are key changes although the basic structure of the site remains unchanged:

- All main site navigation is now in buttons on the left of the screen. The area that was called Surveys is now called 'Questionnaires', more adequately reflecting its content.
- The three main menus (Questionnaires, Topics and Resources) have been simplified. The Questionnaires menu has links to the main overview page for each survey and the most recent questionnaire years.
- Each overview, questionnaire, topic and resource page has a navigation box across the top of the page allowing users to see links to related pages for that section and identify the content on that page.
- A footer on each page of the site has links to the Qb Copyright statement, contact details and accessibility information.
- All of the Qb pages are now on a white background with text boxes for clarity and ease of reading.
- All of the html pages can be printed, however where we have identified content that users are likely to want to print out, such as the Topic Commentaries, we have put it into PDF for ease of printing.
- The Survey Link Scheme website, which has been redesigned for some time, is now fully integrated into the Qb pages, with links and news from the Qb homepage: <http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk/sls.htm>
- The SLS site now has an electronic application form.

The new QB Homepage:

	<p>Question Bank: HOME</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home About the Qb Questionnaires Topics Resources Search 	<p>Question Bank Mission Statement</p> <p>The Question Bank is an information resource, in the field of social research, with a particular emphasis on quantitative survey methods.</p> <p>This website has been designed to help users locate examples of specific research questions and see them in the context within which they have been used for data collection. It is intended to assist with the design of new survey questionnaires, the search for data for secondary analysis, and the teaching of survey research methods.</p>		
<p>Useful Links</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and Social Research Council Office for National Statistics Economic and Social Data Service UK Data Archive National Centre for Social Research 	<p>What are you looking for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Questions: General Guide Survey Information: General Guide Survey Measurement: General Guide <p>Who are you?</p> <p>The Qb targets three main groups: Social Researchers Secondary Analysts Students & Teachers of Research Methods</p>		
	<p>Searching the Qb</p> <p>Qb has an advanced search facility allowing you to search by key words, by survey and by date. To restrict your search just to questionnaires search by PDF only.</p> <p>Begin your Search Get Search Help</p>	<p>ESRC Survey Link Scheme</p>  <p>Giving academic social scientists the opportunity to acquaint themselves with professional social survey research.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Workshop News!</p> <p>21st March 2007 : Plymouth University English Longitudinal Study of Ageing PLACES ARE AVAILABLE</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Feedback Sitemap Copyright Accessibility</p>			

We welcome feedback on the new design: qb@surrey.ac.uk

Visit from the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa



On 15th January 2007 the Qb welcomed visitors from the HSRC (Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa) to the University of Surrey. Marie-Louise van Wyk (System Development Manager), Lucia Lötter (Systems Analyst) and Anneke Jordaan (Data Management Programmer) attended.

The HSRC team were interested in the way the Qb assimilates and presents survey information and how the web site is managed and maintained. The HSRC is currently working on a project to place all of its archived questionnaires in one place.

Survey Methods: A new area of the Question Bank website

A brand new area of the Question Bank website, entitled Survey Data Collection Methods, is to be launched in March 2007. The content of this area is intended to supplement the information provided by the existing Questionnaires, Topics and Resources sections of the site. It will provide a basic introduction to quantitative data collection using questionnaires; those new to survey research will find this to be of particular use. Information will be presented thematically, in the form of seven 'factsheets' that will each have a different focus. The seven planned themes are as follows:

- Introduction to survey methods
- Methods of data collection
- Questions and answers in surveys
- Evaluating survey questions
- Survey interviewing
- Mode effects
- Developing indicators for concepts

Question Bank users who are collecting their own survey data will benefit from these factsheets by utilising them to enhance the process of questionnaire design. Where relevant these will include examples taken from the materials on the Qb website.

Surveys Update

In addition to the time and effort invested in redesigning the Qb website, we have also managed to add some significant items to the content of the site.

We have added the 2003 and 2004 questionnaires for the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey – a series wholly new to the Qb – and also the four latest rounds of the British Crime Survey from 2002/3 through to 2005/6. These items greatly strengthen our coverage of crime surveys.

We have extended our coverage of Northern Ireland's social surveys with four rounds of the Continuous Household Survey (from 2001/2 through to 2004/5) and the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey of 2005.

We have also added the 2003 and 2005 versions of the Home Office's Citizenship Survey (sometimes known as the People, Families and Communities Survey), two more rounds of the International Passenger Survey, the 2004 questionnaire for the British Social Attitudes Survey, and the Health Education Population Survey 2001-2005.

We will always welcome suggestions of good quality social surveys which we might add in order to broaden the range of topics and examples to be found on this site.

ESRC Festival of Social Science Week 9th - 18th March 2007

As part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science Week 2007 (9th - 18th March) the Question Bank are organising two FREE seminars aimed at A level, higher education students and researchers interested in Social Sciences.

The first seminar "**Surveying the Social World: How Social Surveys Can Help us Understand Everyday Life**" is being held on Monday 12th March from 10am - 2pm at the Council Chamber & Canada Room, Queen's University, Belfast.

The seminar will explore the ways in which social surveys can aid our understanding of our social world, how researchers can take advantage of the numerous social surveys that are already carried out in the UK, and why they are of interest and importance. This event is intended for A level students and those considering studying social research.

The second shorter seminar "**Using Surveys in Social Research: How to find information**" is to be held on Wednesday 14th March 2.00pm – 3.00pm in Access Grid Nodes at the following venues:

- University of Surrey
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Manchester
- University of Bristol
- University of Lancaster

This one hour seminar will provide social researchers with an overview of UK Social Surveys that can be used in their own research projects and places to go online that provide further information.

This second event is aimed specifically at students and researchers in universities.

To find out more or register for a place at either event see:

<http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk/docs/festivalofsocialscience.html> or contact z.tenger@surrey.ac.uk .

News from the ESRC Survey Link Scheme



The ESRC Survey Link Scheme webpages have been redesigned and updated with the addition of an online application form: see <http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk/sls.htm>

Upcoming Workshops:

- 21st March, University of Plymouth, English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
- 18th April, University of Leeds, British Crime Survey
- 16th May, University of Lancaster, General Household Survey

Report from Edinburgh Workshop

Twenty four people attended the Survey Link Scheme Workshop at the Wolfson Training Room, University of Edinburgh on 14 February 2007. The Labour Force Survey featured in the workshop drew a wide variety of researchers and teachers of research methodology and sparked a very lively debate on the methods employed by the Office for National Statistics in the gathering and validation of data. Participants were particularly interested in the opportunity to test out the information contained in the ESRC Question Bank.

Upcoming Events from ESDS Government

General Household Survey User Meeting: 29 March 2007, 10am - 1.45pm, Royal Statistical Society, London

Integrated Household Survey Consultation Meeting: 29 March 2007, 1.15pm - 5pm, Royal Statistical Society, London

Introduction to ESDS Government: focus on the Omnibus Survey, 11th May, Cardiff University

Family Resources Survey User Meeting, Monday 23 April 2007, Royal Statistical Society, London

Go to <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/> for more information and booking forms.

Useful Web Links for Survey Researchers

National Centre for Research Methods: <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk>

Economic and Social Data Service: <http://www.esds.ac.uk>

UK Data Archive: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>

Centre for Census and Survey Research: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk>

Institute for Social and Economic Research: <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk>

Research Methods Programme: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/>

The next edition of the Qb newsletter will be available Autumn 2007.

Feedback or queries should be addressed to:

ESRC Question Bank,
Department of Sociology,
University of Surrey,
Guildford,
Surrey, GU2 7XH

Telephone: 01483 682788

E-mail: qb@surrey.ac.uk