

Assignment Notes: Collecting and Using Data in SPSS

For your quantitative research assignment, you are required to collect and analyse **authentic, real-world data** using SPSS. Below are key points to guide you:

1. Choosing a Dataset

You should begin by identifying a dataset that is:

- Relevant to your research topic
- Quantitative in nature
- Available in a format compatible with SPSS (e.g. .csv, .sav, or .xlsx)

2. Recommended Sources of Data

Below are reputable sources where you can access free and reliable datasets:

Academic and Research Platforms:

- UK Data Service: <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/learning-hub/teach-with-real-data/>
- University of Bristol Quantitative Data Guide: <https://bristol.libguides.com/research-data/quantitative>
- Maven Analytics Data Playground: <https://mavenanalytics.io/data-playground>
- SAGE Research Methods Datasets: <https://learningresources.sagepub.com/research-methods/datasets>

Government and International Organisations:

- Eurostat Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>
- OECD Data: <https://data.oecd.org/>
 - Alternative links: <https://stats.oecd.org/> | <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets.html>
- Data.gov.uk: <https://data.gov.uk/>
- Bank of England Research Datasets: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/research-datasets>

Additional Platforms:

- Kaggle Datasets: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets>
- Google Dataset Search: <https://datasetsearch.research.google.com/>

3. Using Data in SPSS

Once you have selected your dataset:

- Ensure the data is clean and well-structured (check for missing values, duplicates, or formatting issues).
- Import the dataset into SPSS.
- Define your variables clearly and assign appropriate labels and measurement levels (e.g. nominal, ordinal, scale).
- Conduct the necessary descriptive or inferential analysis based on your research questions.

4. Tips for Success

- Choose a dataset that directly supports your research aim and objectives.
- Practice basic SPSS functions like frequencies, cross-tabulations, descriptive stats, and regression.
- Use graphs and tables to support your findings.