Gather Your Data Online

Online course learning objectives

We go online to communicate, participate in classes and meetings, and find sources in the library. How can we use these tools to collect data for scholarly research? This course gives an overview of types of data and ways to find and generate them online. Learners will evaluate options for their own research as they work through this interactive course.

This course will help learners to:
- Compare different approaches to online data collection and evaluate which works best for their research design
- Assess research problems, questions and scope of the study to determine the kind of data to collect
- Identify existing data availability, options and limitations to help find and use online data that is ethically sound and appropriate to their study
- Develop a sampling strategy to recruit suitable research participants and take appropriate steps to establish credibility, build trust, and verify consent
- Evaluate the different methods, technology and ways of interacting with online participant research, and how to apply these to their research
- Prepare for high quality online research by thinking through the research design thoroughly and building the necessary skills to carry it out

Language: English
Time to complete: 4 hours
Instructor: Janet E Salmons
Level: Intermediate

Online course full syllabus

MODULE ONE: WHAT TYPES OF DATA COLLECTION CAN I CONDUCT ONLINE?
Learn to compare different approaches to online data collection and evaluate which approach works best for your own research design.
Topics:

1. How can we use the internet to collect varied types of data?
2. How is it different to look at the online world as a researcher?
3. What are the two broad types of online data collection?
4. When is online data collection not ideal?

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MODULE TWO: HOW DO I CHOOSE WHICH TYPES OF ONLINE DATA COLLECTION FIT MY RESEARCH?

Assess your research problems, questions, and scope of the study to determine the kind of data you need to collect.

Topics:

1. How do i choose an online data collection method?
2. Is extant data collection appropriate for my study?
3. How are extant data used in qualitative and quantitative research?
4. Is elicited data collection appropriate for my study?
5. How are elicited data used in qualitative and quantitative research?

MODULE THREE: HOW CAN I GET PERMISSION TO USE DATA THAT EXISTS ONLINE?

Identify existing data availability, options and limitations and apply these strategies to help find and use online data that is ethically sound and appropriate to your study.

Topics:

1. Find existing data that fits your study
2. Ethical ways to find and use extant data
3. Sampling: choosing data that fits the study
4. What should I include or exclude?

MODULE FOUR: HOW CAN I FIND AND GAIN CONSENT FROM PARTICIPANTS ONLINE?

Understand steps needed to develop a sampling strategy to recruit suitable research participants and take the appropriate steps to establish credibility, build trust, and verify participant consent.

Topics:

1. Human participants: sample, recruit and get consent
2. Sampling: who do you want to study?
3. How do you find people who meet your criteria?
4. Informed consent

MODULE FIVE: HOW CAN I INTERACT WITH PARTICIPANTS TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS, SURVEYS OR QUESTIONNAIRES?

Evaluate the different methods, technology and ways of interacting with online participant research, and how to apply participant interaction techniques to your research.

Topics:

1. What works best for your study?
2. What types of research questioning will generate the appropriate answers?
3. What are the different ways to ask questions online?
4. How can you use synchronous and asynchronous technologies?

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MODULE SIX: HOW DO I PREPARE TO START MY ONLINE RESEARCH?

Prepare for high quality online research by thinking through your research design thoroughly and building the skills you need to carry it out.

Topics:

1. How are online studies evaluated?
2. How can you explain your study clearly?
3. How can you prepare to elicit data online?
4. How can you prepare to collect extant data online?