
Getting Access to Field Data and Real World Samples

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Overview



Presenter and student experiences – why field data

Overview of presenter experiences with field data collection

- Houston Fire Department
- World Health Organization, United Nations (TGF & ILO)
- ExxonMobil, Saudi Aramco
- Texas Children's Hospital
- Houston VA Center for Health Services Research
- Willbros, Worley Parsons, College of the Mainland

Student experiences

1. Describe prior experiences with field data collection
 - What were the biggest advantages of collecting field data?
 - What were the biggest challenges/problems with collecting field data?

Why field data?

- Better external validity than lab or student data
- Fewer reviewer concerns with good field datasets than with lab or student-based data
- Opportunity to help organizations identify causes and solutions to issues they are facing
- Option for obtaining financial support for research projects/student assistantships and conference travel
- Opportunity for graduate students to gain consulting experiences (e.g. presentation, data collection, technical report writing)

Common problems with field data

- Not everyone wants their dirty laundry to be public!
- Sample sizes may be smaller than you had expected initially, and data structure/issues with missing data may be larger than you had hoped
- Companies sometimes consider work they have supported to be competitive advantage/intellectual property and may not want you to publish based on the data
- Getting access can be challenging, more difficult for some topics than for others
- Other issues you have encountered?

Getting access – key concepts and ideas

FAQ - Issues	Answers/Solutions/Options
HR as a good place to start?	Think beyond HR in identifying possible partners
Establishing contacts?	Make broad lists of people and organizations you know – networking is more likely to pay off than a lot of other efforts
What do you pitch to the organization?	Consider either pitching your research question or a question the organization would like to address that can be combined with your question
How do you persuade an organization to participate?	Create pain for the potential client! Answer WIIFM questions!
What documents do I need to have ready to get started?	Sample assessment tools, process outline documents, communication documents, research question description
Other questions with regards to getting access?	?

Key documents and resources



1. Sample contract document
2. Sample data collection document
3. Sample email communication