

Discovering Data Sources Through the Dataset Presentation

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Beyond the Numbers

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Outline of Presentation

- Role of Data Literacy in Our Work
- Motivation of Assignment to Promote Learning about Data Sources
- Assignment Details
- Assignment Use
- Questions?



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Kentucky Research
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The KRDC is now open in
Suite 125 Gatton Building.

More Info

About the Center

The Kentucky Research Data Center (KRDC) is a collaboration between the [University of Kentucky](#) and the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) established by a grant from the [National Science Foundation](#) in 2016. KRDC is part of the nationwide system of Federal Statistical Research Data Centers whose mission is to expand the data infrastructure available to qualified scholars and students with approved projects by providing access to

News

[KRDC Researchers Publish Article in November Issue of Health Affairs](#)



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Motivation

- Growing importance of data literacy
- Undergraduate programs increasingly requiring and offering econometrics and data analytics courses



Motivation (continued)

- Simultaneously, increased emphasis on undergraduate research
- Understanding basic econometric and data analytics techniques and application is critical



But...

- Also critical to:
 - Be able to work with data
 - Understand what can be done with data
 - **Know what data exists**
- How to accomplish?
 - The teaching literature is thin
 - Econometrics and analytics textbooks are thin



Too many data sources is overwhelming!



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Our Approach: Dataset Presentation Assignment

Three student objectives:

1. Experience working with large datasets

- 2. Exposure to existing, stand-alone datasets and potential uses**

3. Experience preparing and delivering a data-driven presentation



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Advantages

- A structured introduction to wide range of publicly available data sources
- Jump starts thinking about research questions for empirical projects



Provided

- Detailed assignment prompt
- Listing of example datasets and sources
 - Standard
 - More challenging
- Presentation grading template



The Assignment

- Instructor forms groups of two or three
- Each group “claims” a standalone dataset (from provided list)
- Each group develops and presents their dataset to class (~10 minutes)
- Presentations have six components



Datasets

Some Examples

Our Experience:

It's best to direct
students to
potential data sets



Presentation Components

Component I: Description

- What is the purpose? What topics?
- What is time-frame?
- How are the data collected?
- What is the unit of observation?
- What variables are provided?



Components (cont.)

Component II: What data sets can be created? Merged?

Component III: Summarize an academic paper that uses the dataset

Component IV: Detail how/where to access the data



Components (cont.)

Component V: Provide summary statistics for at least five variables

Component VI: Report a regression using dataset



Where can assignment be used?

- Introductory econometrics, statistics, or data analytics course (middle of course)
- Graduate courses (first quarter of course)
- Research-focused seminar or special topics course (first quarter of course)



In Summary...

- Develop an assignment on understanding of data sources and data structures
- Engage students in data and data-driven presentations
- Provide fodder for research projects
- Reach out if you'd like assignment



Comments & Questions?



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