

UKDS Data Catalogue 2025

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Data Catalogue Project

Objective

To rebuild our existing Data Catalogue to publish variables and use this as opportunity enhance the user experience for discovery.

The website will offer an intuitive and user-friendly interface, allowing users to efficiently discover and access a range of datasets that includes variable information.



In Scope – Phase One

- Publish variable level information for the main UKDA collection.
- Migrate the application platform from on-premises to cloud.
- Demonstrably improve catalogue search experience for users.
- Embed creation of DDI Lifecycle metadata into curation workflow through use of Colectica Designer and Colectica Repository.
- Improved interoperability including a public API and metadata representations available in DDI-Lifecycle 3.3 and DCAT-AP.
- Tighter integration of DOI landing pages and embedding of machine-actionable metadata for FAIR assessment tooling and Cross Domain Interoperability Framework (CDIF) and Croissant (a modern metadata format) adoption.
- Publication of catalogue metadata into Google Dataset Search.
- Decommission the legacy Variable Question Bank.
- UK Data Service Discover - [Variable and Question Bank](#).
- Decommission legacy Controlled Vocabularies (CV) Manager and replace with more professional and industry-standard alternative.
- Improve generation of metrics related to user search behaviour to support more intelligent and informed customer experience improvements in future.

In Scope – Phase Two

- Refactor Access processes and My Account.
- Decommission Nesstar Catalogue - this is reliant large-scale conversion of SPSS/STATA files to “flat” databases to support cross-tabulation engines.
- Publishing variable information for ReShare - this will likely be replaced by Dataverse.
- Integration of Census variable information from non-Essex partners via APIs.
- Integration of Data Product Builder (under development in Future Data Services project).
- Publication of catalogue metadata to Google Data Commons.



User Feedback

- Feedback was gathered via surveys.
- Further surveys, workshops, UAT and metrics will be used.
- Some users found it difficult to find data.
- Most would like advanced search features (filtered searches by topic, data type, most popular etc.).
- Search should offer keyword search as well as autocomplete and suggestions.
- Search results should be relevant, complete and up to date.
- Navigation and terminology should be user-friendly.
- Data should be easy to browse with a good overview of what is available.
- Search results should be easy to share (via social media e.g.)



Questions



Discussion topics

Mechanisms to capture user experience and feedback

What do you think of the Catalogue prototype?





Thank you.

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