

# 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.)

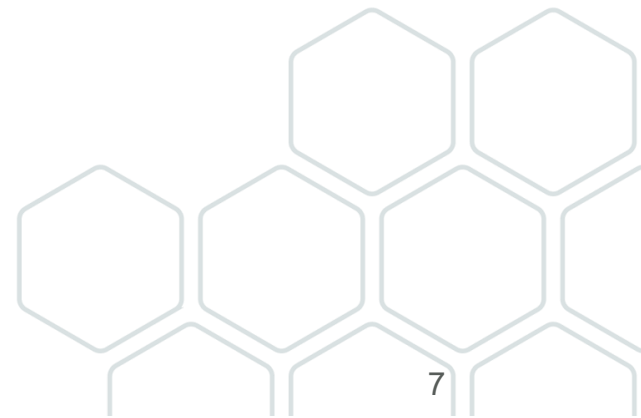
# Questions



# Discussion topics

Mechanisms to  
capture user  
experience and  
feedback

What do you think  
of the Catalogue  
prototype?



# Thank you.

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