Why does citing data make good sense?

Citing datasets used in published research is just as important as citing journal articles, books, and other sources. Just mentioning the title of a study or describing the sample in the text of your article is not enough for a reader to know the exact data you used. A formal citation resides in the reference section of a publication, and it provides enough information for the reader to identify, retrieve, and access it. By citing your use of a dataset, you are supporting the reproducibility of your research and attributing credit to those who provided the data — including data you created! Citations also allow for tracking reuse and measuring data's impact.

What is the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-related Literature?

This is a searchable database that contains over 70,000 citations of known published and unpublished works resulting from analyses of data held at ICPSR. The collection represents over 50 years of scholarship in the quantitative social sciences.

Who finds it useful?

• Students — search the collection of literature about their research topics to discover datasets to use
• Instructors — teach students to learn about the data via the literature
• Researchers — can examine existing findings before reusing data
• Reporters and policy makers — look for processed statistics to explain the data findings
• Principal investigators and funders — track how data are used after deposit at ICPSR

What should you include in a data citation?

• Author: Name(s) of each individual or organizational entity responsible for the creation of the dataset.
• Date of Publication: Year the dataset was published or disseminated.
• Title: Complete title of the dataset, including the edition or version number, if applicable.
• Publisher and/or Distributor: Organizational entity that makes the dataset available by archiving, producing, publishing, and/or distributing the dataset.
• Electronic Location or Identifier: Web address or unique, persistent, global identifier used to locate the dataset (such as a DOI). Append the date retrieved if the title and locator are not specific to the exact instance of the data you used.

How to use the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-related Literature to find social science datasets and access published analyses based on them:

1. Start a search one of two ways:
   - Choose from results
   - Filter, sort, export

2. Discover data by searching the literature database
   - Bibliography's search portal
   - Description page of a data collection

3. Link to data and full text
   - Link to full list
   - Link out to full text

www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/citations

This is a searchable database that contains over 70,000 citations of known published and unpublished works resulting from analyses of data held at ICPSR. The collection represents over 50 years of scholarship in the quantitative social sciences.