

Research Spotlights: Introducing a Tool for Showcasing the Visibility of Diverse Populations in Scholarly Publications

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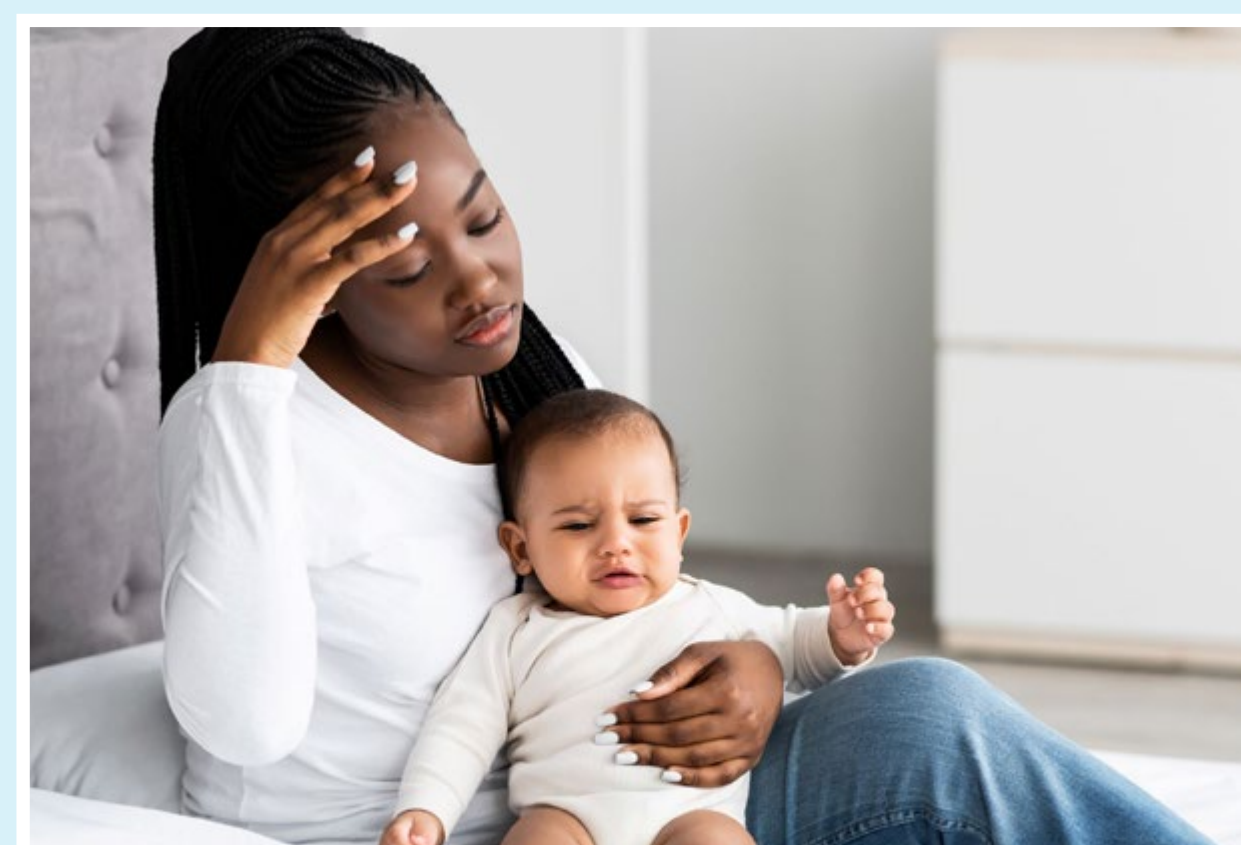
What are Research Spotlights?

The ICPSR Bibliography of Data-related Literature is a freely available and continually updated database of over 110,000 citations that link data to primary and secondary analyses by researchers across the world. Since 2020, the Bibliography's Information Resources staff have been creating instructional materials called Research Spotlights, using the Bibliography as their source to synthesize the findings about one or several related topics. These Research Spotlights show how scholars are using data available from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in their analyses. One of ICPSR's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) priorities is to diminish access barriers and bring the narratives and research of often-marginalized populations to the forefront.

Highlighting Research about Diverse Communities



Mental Health and the LGBTQ Population



Maternal Depression and Child Health



English Language Learners and Childhood Education



The Elderly and Social Isolation

Improving Data Literacy through the Lens of DEI

In addition to shedding light on research publications using data connected to timely topics, the Research Spotlights written so far have been able to underscore how research findings are particularly relevant to specialized diverse communities, such as LGBTQ+ populations, women, or the elderly. Librarians and other instructors can utilize Research Spotlights as data literacy tools to help students and emerging scholars find models for data reuse in the scholarly literature.

Scan for more Spotlights



How Research Spotlights Apply a Data Literacy Framework

We use the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)'s Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education to address a few specific data literacy skills that the Research Spotlights aim to target. To showcase aspects of data literacy in our most recent Research Spotlights, we rely on the version adapted by Mendez-Carbajo et al. (2018).

Information Literacy

Scholarship is a conversation

Searching as strategic exploration

Authority is constructed and contextual

Information has value

Data Literacy

The use and reuse of data to understand research questions and related content

Data's unique properties inform search strategies (tags and categories)

Assessing the credibility of data and its source

Data may be public domain or commercial; it informs policy

Application within Research Spotlights

Helps potential data users, including more data-hesitant researchers, begin to understand what ICPSR datasets have to say about a given topic and how published research has used the data to inform scholarly conversation up to this point.

Provides ideas for published works to consult on specific topics, and suggests keyword search strategies for finding relevant datasets on ICPSR's website.

Incorporates published critiques of the methodology or weighs the significance of a given dataset to serve as a starting point for further research or more comprehensive literature reviews.

Highlights the practical effects of data-derived conclusions on policy or incorporates details on the historical context that informed the treatment of the data.

References

Mendez-Carbajo, Diego, Jefferson, Charissa, Stierholz, Katrina, & Suiter, Mary. (2018, November 7-8). Developing tools to support data literacy [Presentation]. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis's Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, United States. <https://files.stlouisfed.org/files/htdocs/conferences/beyond-the-numbers/docs/e98c9bbd4e19482f985639e6daa01b82.pdf>

Disclaimer: Research Spotlights are not comprehensive literature reviews but represent a segment of the literature that is based on data available at ICPSR. The works referred to in Research Spotlights do not reflect the views of the Bibliography staff or ICPSR but are intended to draw attention to current themes in research and the data sources that are used to investigate them.