

Interview Protocol

Review Informed Consent Form

Recording begins

Outlook and purpose of the study:

- This is a study about how people make sense of data. The study will be analysed in the context of dataset sharing and reuse in scientific settings

Introduction

- We are interested in how you interpret and make sense of a dataset that you are familiar with and how you do the same for one that is new to you; and in your experiences and thoughts when using data.
- We will begin with some introductory questions and then ask you to describe your dataset and the one that we shared with you.

Demographics/Background

- Where do you currently live?
- What is your job role?
- What discipline or research area do you associate with?
- If you are comfortable sharing that, what is your age?
- Could you tell us a bit about your experience working with data? (how long, which formats)

Participants' Data

- **Task:** Could you please describe your data in a way that other another person, who cannot see the data, can decide if they will use it for a particular task?
- What do you think somebody who might want to use this data needs to know about it in order to reuse it?
- How are the data useful for you / or how could they be used by other people?
- Would you describe the data differently for a colleague who works in your research area?

Given Data

Share link to given dataset with participants

- Take a few minutes to review this dataset silently. We know that you do not have much context for the data, and that everything will not be clear. There are no right or wrong answers. You may do whatever you like with the dataset itself as you work with it.
- **Task:** Could you please describe your data in a way that other another person, who cannot see the data, can decide if they will use it for a particular task?
- Descriptions of individual parts of the spreadsheet:
 - Please describe the **entire** column “deaths per million population” (Column D)
 - If you had to make a one-sentence summary of the headers, what would you say? (Can you see any groups?)
 - What are the three most important columns? Why?

- Please look at columns B, K & L. Could you please describe these columns?
 - Please look at column M and describe it to me.
 - If you had to make a one-sentence summary of column E, what would you say?
 - If you had to make a one-sentence summary of row 3, what would you say?
- Is there anything missing that you would like to know about the dataset in order to use it yourself?
 - How familiar are you with this type of dataset? (*In terms of format and content*)

Other

This section of the interview included 3 additional questions around data search, including a visual prompt of a data summary. This part of the data was not analysed for the purpose of this study.

Reflection

- How difficult was it for you to describe the two different datasets (your own and ours)?

Debrief:

- Is there anything else you would like to add?
- Thank you for taking the time. We very much appreciate it! If you would like to follow-up or know more about the results please feel free to send us an email.