Searching for Variables in <odesi>

**Your Mission:** To find a dataset on how different people use the internet.

**Step 1:** Open an Internet Browser

**Step 2:** Click on Odesi: Data Service of Scholars Portal on the Data and Statistics (Access data on Odesi) page at:

http://uottawa.ca.libguides.com/content.php?pid=14807&sid=99466

**Step 3:** Go to Search <odesi> (part way down the middle section) and type Internet in the search box.
Step 4: From the drop down box at the right, select Variable/Category Label

Step 5: Click on the icon to the right of this box to add another search term.

Step 6: For the second search term, type IM, which stands for Instant Messaging.

Step 7: From the drop down box at the right, select Variable/Category Label.

Step 8: Make sure that the box to the left of All Collections is checked.

Note: If you know which collection to search, select only that collection.

Step 9: Click on the Search button to start the search.
Step 10: The **Canadian Internet Use Survey, 2007** is the only survey that appears as a result.

Click on the title of the survey – **Canadian Internet Use Survey, 2007**.

Step 11: (Optional) The following webpage for the **Canadian Internet Use Survey, 2007** appears. To better understand the survey, explore the various sections of this webpage. Available are the **Abstract, Study Description**, size of the **Data Files, Documentation** and **All Survey Variables**.

Step 12: At the top right of the screen, notice the **Matching Variables** that appear for your search terms. Click on the matching variable that is in **Red** (e.g., **Past Yr – Internet at home – IM service**).
Step 13: The following webpage appears where you see the frequencies for that particular variable. Your variable is in red on the left side of the window and the frequencies of the variable along with the full question text are available on the right side of the window.

Note that the frequencies are available as unweighted (N) and weighted (NW). Weighted frequencies give population estimates.

Step 14: Notice that on the left side of the screen, there are more variables that you can explore. Click on some of the different variables to see the frequencies. Below are examples of frequencies for 2 other variables that identify how the internet is used.

Carleton University Data Centre, February 2010
Step 15: To make a table, click on Tabulation at the top.

Step 16: Click on Past Yr – Internet at home – IM service.

Step 17: Click on Add to Row.

Step 18: We’ve determined the type of internet use we want to explore. Now let’s take a look at different types of people using the internet by looking at the various demographics.

Click on the on the left of LFS Demographic variables.

Step 19: Notice that there are 5 demographic variables in this category.

Step 20: Click on Age of respondent in 5 year groups.
Step 21: Click on **Add to column**.

Step 22: This will give you a cross tab with the **age** in the column and the **specific internet use** in the rows.

To better visualize your data, let’s create a graph. Go to the top right of the screen and click on the **Add to column** to get options for the different graphs.

Step 23: Select the following graph type.

Step 24: This is the graph that appears. Can you answer these questions?

- What age group uses Instant Messaging the most?
- What age group uses Instant Messaging the least?

Step 25: Let’s change the **type of internet use**.

Select the drop down box that says **Past yr – Internet at home** at the top and click on **Remove from graph**.
Step 26: Go to the left side of the screen and click on Past yr – Internet at home – e-mail.

Step 27: Click on Add to Row.

A new graph will appear. Repeat steps 26 to 28 to remove and add other variables that relate to the types of internet use.

Step 28: Let’s change the demographic variable.

Select the drop down box that says Age of respondent in 5 years at the top and click on Remove from graph.

Step 29: Go to the left side of the screen and click on Marital Status of respondent.

Step 30: Click on Add to column.

A new graph will appear. Repeat steps 29 to 31 to remove and add other demographic variables.

Step 31: To print a graph/table, click on Print preview at the top right of the screen.

Step 32: The print window will appear asking which printer you’d like to use.

Select the desired printer and click Ok.
Step 35: To save a graph or table, click on Export PDF.

Step 36: Select Save File and click Ok.

To download the dataset, follow the steps outlined in the Finding, Subsetting and Downloading a Survey in <odesi> User Guide.

Your Mission:

Now that you’ve finished the steps, explore the data by changing both the internet use variables (steps 26 to 28) and the demographic variables (steps 29 to 31). Feel free to explore and use different types of graphs.

See if you can answer the following question.

- Which internet use is different for the age groupings?

For more information
Geographic, Statistical and Government Information Centre
(613) 562-5211
gsg@uottawa.ca

Thank you to the Carleton University Data Centre for allowing us to use their guide.