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Frequently Asked Questions:

Questions about access or software:

- Q:** What should I do if I can't access any datasets?
A: All the data sets are located on the G: drive (G:\ALL). All faculty members and graduates of our department should be able to use them. If you have a problem accessing or opening them, please contact sochelp@indiana.edu.
- Q:** May I move the datasets to my H: drive?
A: We ask you not to. We recommend that you use the central data on the G: drive (G:\ALL). If you want to create new variables, you can save your command files or you can create smaller versions of the datasets that only include the variables you want to use on your H: drives.
- Q:** What if I save the data after changing some of the variables by mistake?
A: You will not be able to save any changes because the datasets on the G: drive are read-only. We encourage users to save data transformations in syntax files but to leave the original data files unaltered. If you must save new variables, save the new data files to your H: drive.
- Q:** I increased the memory at the beginning of my session to use a large dataset, but I still can't run the data. What is the problem?
A: Try to set the memory higher than the "Description of Data" indicates. Make sure that you are using either STATA 8SE or SPSS 11.2 for windows. And also make sure that you have a good computer to run these files because all the data sets are large-sized and require considerable memory.

Questions about data:

- Q:** The 1999-2000 wave of the World Values Survey is different from the other three waves of it. I'm having trouble matching the codebook and the data in STATA, as well as understanding the difference in the WVS and EVS.
A: To our knowledge, the first variable of WVS indicates the wave of the data. For the first three waves, we separate the data sets by "wave" and also have the combined data. However, the 1999-2000 wave is slightly different than the previous three waves, according to the codebook. Combining this wave and the previous three waves may cause confusion. Hence, we decided to divide the 1999-2000 wave by "region" (see the variable s001). If you have a problem matching the codebook and the data, please ask people who have used the data for details in our department.
- Q:** I don't see the reason for having the yearly GSS data. I only want to use the accumulative data.

A: The purpose of having yearly data is to facilitate users who want to analyze the GSS data for certain time periods. You may ignore those datasets and use the combined data if you prefer. If you have trouble understanding the connection between the data files 1983-87 and the codebook for them, please contact the computing assistant (for this academic year, mgong@indiana.edu).

7. **Q:** The second variable (vdsetno) in the ANES does not make any sense to me. Do I have to understand this variable in order to analyze the data?

A: As far as we know, you can use other identifiers to analyze data without problems. If you believe that you need to use this variable, please read the codebook for details and consult with people who have used the data in our department.