

Describing Research that uses Data from Social Media Platforms

Thank you for your interest in our survey; this survey forms part of the Provenance of Social Media Data project being conducted at the University of Aberdeen, UK. This project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, Social Media - Developing Understanding, Infrastructure & Engagement grant (ES/M001628/1).

The Provenance of Social Media Data project is exploring how understanding the provenance of data from social media platforms and its analysis in social science research could be a key role in increasing the transparency of such research. This, in turn, could support address growing concerns within the social sciences research community regarding the reliability, statistical validity, and generalisability of such research. Here, provenance is considered to be information about the entities (things), activities, and people involved in producing a piece of data or thing. For example, the provenance of a publication may include information about the entities included in the paper, such as graphs, tables, and text. Such information about, for example, a line graph may include details of the person that created it, when it was created, the tool used, and references to the data that is presented. Further information may also be provided about the data – for example, who collected it, when, where from, and how (including links survey forms that was used during data collection, if appropriate). The availability of such provenance information can increase the transparency of the research, which, in turn, could help others to understand the work that was undertaken, assess the analytical methods used, attempt to reproduce the work, and facilitate data reuse.

This survey aims to further our understanding of the current practices and attitudes towards describing the provenance of data collected from social media platforms and its analysis by researchers in the social sciences. This includes all forms of social media, such as Twitter, Facebook, Wikipedia, Quora, blogs, discussion forums, etc. Findings from this survey will influence the future work of this project around developing tools to support researchers increase the transport of research that uses social media data.

The survey is composed of three sections, and should take between 10-20 minutes to complete. If you have any queries about the survey or project, please contact Dr David Corsar (email dcorsar@abdn.ac.uk, phone 01224 274562) or Dr Milan Markovic (email milan.markovic@abdn.ac.uk, phone 01224 274596).

* Required

Consent form for participation in the Provenance of Social Media Data project.

Please read the statements below and tick the box at the bottom to confirm that you have read and understood the statements, and upon doing so agree to participate in the project.



I confirm that the research project, Provenance of Social Media Data and this survey have been explained to me. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the project and have had these answered satisfactorily.

I consent to the material I contribute being used to generate insights for the research project Provenance of Social Media Data.

I understand that my participation in this research is voluntary and that I may withdraw from the study at any time.

I consent to allow the fully anonymised data to be used for future publications and other scholarly means of disseminating the findings from the research project.

I understand that the information/data acquired will be securely stored by researchers, but that under the terms of the Economic & Social Research Council policy on research data, appropriately anonymised data may in future be made available to others.

By ticking this box I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to the above statements. *

I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to the above statements

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* Required

Your Use of Social Media Data

What level of experience do you have using data from a social media platforms as part of your research? *

- I have used/am currently using social media data as part of my research.
- I am aware of others using social media data as part of their research and may consider using it within mine.
- Neither of the above.

Did you attend either of the ESRC Social Media Training Workshops held at the University of Aberdeen? *

- Yes, the Early Career Researcher workshop
- Yes, the PhD Student Research workshop
- No

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Describing Research that uses Data from Social Media Platforms

Thank you

We would like to thank you for your interest in this survey, unfortunately at this point in time we are looking for people with experience of social media data in research.

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