

## **Introduction to the Survey Research Data Archive in Taiwan**

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Academia Sinica's Center for Survey Research established the Survey Research Data Archive (SRDA) in 1994. The SRDA acquires, develops, preserves, and disseminates important survey research data from Taiwan. In terms of quantity and variety of datasets acquired, the SRDA ranks as the best in Taiwan and has become one of Asia's leading archives. The main SRDA datasets come from academic research projects and statistical surveys conducted by government agencies. All datasets are examined for wild codes and logical inconsistency according to standardized procedures prior to release. Considerable efforts have been made not only to foresee and forestall potential common data usage problems, but also to provide support whenever members have difficulties. Extensive value-added strategies are ongoing to enhance data quality and user friendliness. Workshops and promotional activities have also been held to encourage scholars to use a greater variety of secondary data for more in-depth research. The SRDA faces two major challenges in its efforts to expand its data collection. Since authorization for public use has to be obtained from project organizers or government institutes, the archive must ensure there is sufficient awareness of the importance of data sharing. Currently, government agencies are becoming increasingly conservative in their dissemination of information. The second major challenge is the need to find a way of securing greater data confidentiality while maximizing its utilization.

