UK Data Service



Exercise: Copyright Scenarios

There are 4 scenarios below, what do you feel are the copyright considerations in each of these?

Scenario 1 – Copyright of Archived Data

A researcher uses International Social Survey Programme (ISSP, n.d.) data obtained from ZACAT/GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Germany. These data are freely available to registered users. The researcher incorporates some of the ISSP data within a database containing his own research data. Can this database be deposited with another archive?

Scenario 2 – Copyright of Data in the Public Domain

A researcher studies how health issues around obesity are reported in the media in the last 10 years. Freely available newspaper websites and library sources are used to obtain articles on this topic. Articles or excerpts are copied into a database and coded according to various criteria for content analysis. (i) Can the researcher use such public data without breaching copyright? (ii) Can the database be archived and shared with other researchers?

Scenario 3 – Copyright of Survey Questions

A researcher wishes to reuse a set of questions from an existing survey questionnaire, to compare results between the newly proposed survey and the original.

Scenario 4 – Copyright of Interviews with Stay-at-Home Parents

A researcher interviews various stay-at-home parents about their careers and produces audio recordings and near verbatim transcripts herself. The researcher analyses this material and offers it to a data archive. The researcher did not get signed copyright transfers for the interviewees' words. What are the rights issues surrounding this offer of data?