

A Data Librarian's Dream Come True: Data Access Made Effortless



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THEN ▶ 1999

95% effort for 5% return

- **Required**
 - In person visit to the Data Centre during business hours
 - Return trip to get data, sometimes more than one return trip required
 - Knowledge of statistical analysis package
- **Limitations**
 - Visits must be during Data Centre business hours for first visit
 - Average time for first visit was one hour, could be as long as all day
 - Not all user guides were electronic thus making searching very labour intensive
 - Limited selection of datasets from which to choose
 - Size limitations for data that could be requested
- **Bonus**
 - Data Centre staff very helpful
 - Some clients became regulars and we were their second home on campus!

Abstract: A collaborative effort among the Ontario data community created **ODESI** (Ontario Data Documentation, Extraction Service and Infrastructure), a data portal. This revolutionary process of obtaining data has transformed data access for researchers, empowering them by providing ready access to this vital library service. This poster illustrates the cumbersome process that was necessary to obtain data 15 years ago and compares it with the quick, innovative way it is obtained today, thus freeing up the Librarian's time to educate the researcher in the intricacies of data literacy.

NOW ▶ 2014

5% effort for 95% return

- **Required**
 - Internet connection
- **Limitations**
 - ODESI can be tricky to use the first time, but then it is smooth sailing
 - So many datasets to choose from, it can be overwhelming
- **Bonus**
 - ODESI has an excellent search engine
 - On average, a dataset of interest is found and downloaded in 10 minutes
 - No knowledge of a statistical analysis package is required
 - All related documentation is downloadable
 - Data Centre staff is very helpful – if you ever visit them!



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