Information Resources for Crime Data

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Abstract

Crime is a common phenomenon in India. . It happens in different part of our country and along with violent crimes property crimes, corruption, arms trafficking, child trafficking etc. Gunrunning, extortion, money laundering etc are some of the examples of crimes that happens in India. In this chapter various information sources on criminal justice, child abuse, human trafficking, etc are included.

Keywords: Information Resources, Crime, Data Sources, Crime Data, International

1. Introduction

Many associate policing with fighting crime. Stories about policing and crime have always been popular in the news media as well as with novelists, playwrights and film makers. But these crime stories tend to be sensational. They focus on violent offences - stabbing, shooting, murder, rape - and on the behaviour of gangs. In fact most criminal offending is (and always was) petty and usually involved the theft of small items or minor acts of vandalism. Criminal offences are done by minors also. The collapse of traditional values and the break-up of joint families must be considered as the root cause of rise of crime in the recent time. Lack of moral values and the negative influence of media have accelerated the growth of

criminals of all ages. This chapter gives a brief introduction on the various types of information sources that will be useful for gathering information on crimes that happens around the world.

2. Definition

2.1 Information Resources

According to Parekh (1999), "Information Resources broadly mean the individuals, organizations, documents and other facilities that can give authoritative response to queries. They include professional societies, university research centers, governmental agencies, laboratories, libraries, etc." As per the context of this chapter, information resources mean print and e-resources in Crime Data.

2.2 Crime

According to Tappan (1960), "crime is an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law (statutory and case law) committed without defense or justification, and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor".

2.3 Data

Elmasrj and Navathe (2005) defined data as: "By data, we mean known facts that can be recorded and that have implicit meaning."

3. Information Resources for Crime Data

There are various information sources for acquiring information on crime data. In the sections that follows, the author introduces some of the important information sources through which data on various crimes could be collected.

3.1. Armed Conflict Database

The Armed conflict database (https://www.iiss.org/publications/armed-conflict-database) owned by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) covers international and internal conflicts, as well as terrorism, refugees and returnees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), weapons used

and their flows, fatalities, costs, historical backgrounds, annual updates and timelines. Users can generate reports and download data. (International Institute for Strategic Studies, 2019).

3.2. ITERATE (International Terrorism Attributes of Terrorist Events)

The ITERATE project (https://library.duke.edu/data/sources/iterate) is an attempt to quantify data on the characteristics of transnational terrorist groups, their activities which have international impact, and the environment in which they operate. ITERATE 3 and 4 update the coverage of terrorist incidents first reported in ITERATE 1 and 2, which can be obtained from the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. The dataset consists of four parts. Nearly all incidents appear in the COMMON file, which the FATE, HOSTAGE and SKYJACK files supplement. Some non-terrorist domestic skyjackings appear in the SKYJACK file and not in the COMMON file. In cases in which we know what happened to the terrorists, we record their destiny in the FATE file. Variables specific to hostage-taking incidents, including aerial, land, and sea hijackings, barricade-and-hostage situations, and kidnappings are provided in the HOSTAGE file. (Mickolus, Sandler, Murdock, & Flemming, 2013).

3.3. U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) (https://www.bjs.gov/) web site contains data on crime and victims, law enforcement, prosecution, criminal offenders, and corrections. Additionally, the publications menu features full-text publications about drugs, gun use in crime, capital punishment etc (U.S. Department of Justice, 2019).

3.4. Congress.gov

The Library of Congress website (https://www.congress.gov/) provides full text of bills, resolutions, and laws as well as tracking legislation through

the Congressional process. This system provides accurate, timely, and complete legislative information to Congress and the public (United States of America, 2019).

3.5. UK Crime Statistics

Crime-Statistic.co.uk (http://crime-statistics.co.uk/) works with Police.uk to convert publicly available criminal information into an easily readable and comparable format. Compare Crime Statistics between any two UK postcodes (UK Crime Statistics, 2019).

3.6. British Crime Survey list of datasets

The British Crime Survey (BCS) (https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/) is one of the largest social surveys conducted in Britain. It is primarily a 'victimisation' survey, in which respondents are asked about the experiences of property crimes of the household and personal crimes which they themselves have experienced. (United Kingdom Government, 2012).

3.7. United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems

The major goal of the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/United-Nations-Surveys-on-Crime-Trends-and-the-Operations-of-Criminal-Justice-Systems.html) is to collect data on the incidence of reported crime and the operations of criminal justice systems with a view to improving the analysis and dissemination of that information globally. The survey results provide an overview of trends and interrelationships between various parts of the criminal justice system to promote informed decision-making in administration, nationally and internationally. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2019).

3.8. Vizala

Vizala (https://vizala.com/) aims to be the internet's most useful database for country, demographic, social, and economic information. Instead of just providing answers, our robust analytics allow for in-depth analysis and provide a complete picture of your topic of interest. Vizala only uses data from trusted sources and includes links to the original source for maximum transparency. (Vizala LLC, 2019).

3.9. Office for National Statistics: Crime and Justice

It figures on the crime levels and trends on for England and Wales based primarily on two sets of statistics: the criminal survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime data (https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice) (Office for National Statistics, 2019).

3.10. Homeland Security Digital Library

The Homeland Security Digital Library (HSDL) (https://www.hsdl.org/) is the nation's premier collection of homeland security policy and strategy related documents. It supports local, state and federal analysis and decision-making needs and assists academics of all disciplines in homeland defense and security related research. It provides quick access to important U.S. policy documents, presidential directives, and national strategy documents as well as specialized resources such as theses and reports from various universities, organizations and local and state agencies. The resources are reviewed and selected by a team of homeland security researchers and organized in a unique homeland security taxonomy. (National Preparedness Directorate,FEMA and Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security, 2019).

3.11. Michigan State University Criminal Justice Libguide

Michigan State University Criminal Justice Libguide (https://libguides.lib.msu.edu/cj) provides general information about locating resources on Criminal Justice in both in the MSU Libraries. This libguide introduces you to various data sources, books, scholarly journal articles, research methods, tutorials etc related to criminal justice. (Michigan State University, 2019).

3.12. National Criminal Justice Reference Service

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (https://www.ncjrs.gov/) was established in 1972. It is a federally funded resource offering justice and substance abuse information to support research, policy and progam development worldwide. Its run by the US government and provides information for those interested in in crime, victim assistance, and public safety including policymakers, practitioners, researchers, educators, community leaders, and the general public. (United States of America, 2019)

3.13. National Institute of Corrections Digital Resources Library

National Institute of Corrections Digital Resources Library (https://nicic.gov/all-library-items) covers over 3,000 items, accessible online, that have been produced by NIC or other sources. You can use the search engine on the right or browse through categories (National Institute of Corrections, 2019).

3.14. Race and Justice Clearinghouse

The Clearinghouse (http://www.sentencingproject.org/clearinghouse/) contains information and tools for policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to understand racial disparities so they can be addressed, and make the criminal justice system more fair and effective. (The Sentencing Project, 2019).

3.15. USA.gov

USA.gov (https://www.usa.gov/) is the official U.S. Government portal to 47 million pages of government information, services, and online transactions. The site offers a powerful search engine that searches every word of every U.S. government document in a quarter of a second or less. USA.gov also features a topical index, online transactions, links to state and local government, options to contact your government, and other tools so you don't have to know the name of the government agency to get the information you want anytime you want it (U.S. Government, 2019).

3.16. Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics

The Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics (http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/) brings together data from more than 100 sources about many aspects of criminal justice in the United States. These data are displayed in over 600 tables (University at Albany, 2013).

3.17. National Archive of Criminal Justice Data

The national archive of criminal justice data (https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/NACJD/index.html) provides research data available from ICPSR, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and National Institute of Justice. This archive provides data on criminal justice processing, child abuse, violence against women, human trafficking, guns and weapons, prostitution, terrorism etc. (The Regents of the University of Michigan, 2019).

3.18. Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center (FJSRC)

The FJSRC (https://www.bjs.gov/fjsrc/datadictionary.cfm?refrom=UI/index.cfm) maintains the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP) database, which contains information about suspects and

defendants processed in the Federal criminal justice system. (United States of America, 2019).

3.19. United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems

The United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems collects data on the incidence of reported crime and the operations of criminal justice systems with a view to improving the analysis and dissemination of that information globally. (United Nations Organisation, 2016).

4. Conclusion

In this chapter various information sources by which data on crimes are enlisted. This chapter gives an over view on the different databases from which we can elict data on the behavior of victims after facing a war. The chapter gives an over view on the different types of databases that are used for preventing a war among nations as another war could result in the destruction of the planet that we live in.

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