Methods Fair at CReLLU PGR Conference

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Navigating Research Methodology with OASIS and IRIS databases:

A Showcase for Early-Stage PhD Students

Methodological challenges Early-stage PhD students often face:

- We have **constrained timeline** to "reinvent the wheel": designing a questionnaire, developing a protocol for analysis, preparing scripts for experiments, or writing codes for data analysis, etc.
- Even if we have time to achieve the above, we need to do more, for example, we need to conduct **reliability and validity** checks for the instrument we create, which again can be time consuming, and the results may not always be promising.

How to gain the sense of certainty in terms of methodological rigour?

Openly accessible databases like OASIS and IRIS can provide valuable support (for free!!) to address these methodological issues.

- **OASIS (Open Accessible Summaries in Language Studies)**

  Although the initiative of OASIS is to bridge the gap between research and practice in the language science by making research findings accessible to audience outside academia, **it has potentials to facilitate PhD research**.

  - **Easy to read**: One-page summary of journal articles written in non-technical language.
  - **More informative than abstracts**: Each summary gives information about a study's goal, what the researcher(s) did (Methodology & Methods!), what they found, and the things to consider
  - **With quality**: see the collaborating journals page

    Summaries were written by authors or experts in the field.

- **IRIS (Instruments and data for research in language studies)**

  IRIS is a collection of instruments, materials, stimuli, data, and data coding and analysis tools used for language research.

  - **A large resource**: 2,400 records in the database
  - **High quality**: Uploads must be used in studies published in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, or approved PhD theses.
  - **Searchable metadata**: by author, by research area, by types of material,

participants, language, etc.

Two examples to show how these two resources can be jointly used

[Example 1]

Step 1: Find an OASIS summary

Search a term → scan the results → pick the one you want to read

e.g., "learner attitude" → Lindberg & Trofimovich (2020)

Step 2: Read the information about this summary and 'How to cite this summary' (it has its own OASIS reference!)

Step 3: Download the summary and read it, think about the answers to the questions:
- What was the research about?
- What did the researchers do?
- What did they find?

Step 4: If this is the study that you want to know more about its materials, check its IRIS link.

Step 5: Download the two files of the record in the IRIS database

Step 6: If the materials are what you need, **read the original article** (both OASIS and IRIS have the reference) and decide in what way you can use the two files you have downloaded from IRIS.

Would they be used as is for a direct replication? Would you consider adapting them for your own research objectives? Remember, the materials are free to use, but you need to credit the researchers by using the citations.

[Example 2]

Step 1: Find an OASIS summary

Search a term → scan the results → pick the one you want to read

e.g., "processing" → Lago, et al. (2023)

Step 2: Read the information about this summary and 'How to cite this summary'

Step 3: Download the summary and read it, think about the answers to the questions:

- What was the research about?
- What did the researchers do?
- What did they find?

Step 4: If this is the study that you want to know more about its materials, check if it has materials in the IRIS database. (Note: some summaries do not include IRIS links but may have uploaded materials/data/code to IRIS.)

Step 5: Search the record(s) related to Lago et al., (2023) in the IRIS database, **by authors' names,** by the title of the article, etc.

Step 6: There are **three records** related to this author in IRIS for download

- Stimuli for laboratory studies
- Data
- R code

Step 7: If the materials/data/code are what you need, read the original article (both OASIS and IRIS have the reference) and decide in what way you can use the files you have downloaded from IRIS.

Would they be used as is for a direct replication? Would you consider adapting them for your own research objective? Can the data and analysis code be helpful for your quantitative data analysis? Remember, the materials/data/code are free to use, but you need to credit the researchers by putting the reference.

Further notes:

1) Not all OASIS summaries have their materials or data saved in the IRIS, and vice versa.
2) There is a certain proportion of records (about 25%) in the IRIS that have no materials attached. You may need to contact the author(s) for the files if you need them.
3) The principle of reciprocity: think about receiving benefits from the Open Research practices **today** and contributing to the OR resources **tomorrow**

Do you want to take a try and get your hands dirty?