SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT NO. 88

DATASET DEVELOPMENT SOFTWARE & FAMILY RESEARCH ITEM BANK
PHASE II

This Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II project, a follow-on to Project No. 67 (and which also built on to the work of Project No. 45) developed an integrated software program that develops and documents social science research studies. The program performs the following functions: 1) Instrument generation—generates a fully formatted research instrument in print, ASCII, and html formats. 2) Codebook generation—generates the data set documentation in a printed codebook (also in ASCII and html format), flow chart, and data file map. 3) Data entry—provides for data entry from completed questionnaires, with simultaneous error checking. 4) Program file generation—produces a raw data file in ASCII format, and builds the program statement files needed to transform the raw data file into SPSS and/or SAS system files. The software also automates tasks best done by computer, improves instrumentation and documentation by providing a complete, high-quality structure and format, and reduces the post data-collection effort of documenting a public-use data set.

To assist family researchers, we have also built an item bank of high quality, commonly used questions, scales, and interviewing tools. This bank is accessible within the program to permit users to select questions to develop their own research instruments. The item bank is filled with several thousand questionnaire items drawn from the leading studies in family research.

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