

# Searching for relevant data on the UK Data Service site using Discover

When searching in **Discover** tick 'data collections' under Type, and 'qualitative and mixed method data' under Data Type. Then use any other of the available filters you see as relevant and put in key words that seem to best match your topic to start your searches. Note you can use an \* to substitute for word endings - for example, famil\* will identify all key words with family or families + you can use 'and' or 'or' to find data tagged with a combination of key words or one or another key word.

**Then download data. You will find these instructions on downloading here:**

<https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/get-data/how-to-access/downloadorder>

**To download/order data:**

1. locate the data collection you require using [Discover](#)
2. click the 'Download/Order' option for the data collection required
3. register a new use of the data, or choose from any previously registered usages
4. enter a short summary describing your intended use of the data
5. click 'Add datasets' and the selected data collection will be added to your usage
6. agree any special conditions associated with the selected datasets. These will appear in the 'Status' column
7. click 'Download' and accept the EUL reminder
8. select the download format required and the download will begin. Note that where the format option is 'Other', format guidance is usually given within the zip file name, for example, SAS

Some data collections are not available for immediate download, and you will need to order the data. To do this, check the 'Other media' box and follow the online instructions.

Most of the 'data collections' include data files, a file giving standard information about the project, and a file detailing the list of data files. Some files are in Rich Text Files RTF, and some are PDFs. The collection is usually bundled into a zip file. When you download the file it will probably go to the default download folder but then on extracting the files you can save to a place of your choosing including your own USB stick.

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Thinking forward to the next stages, note that in some cases, file names are unhelpful and meta data are limited. For example, you may know there are a set of interviews that includes men and women but have to open each individual file to find out whether a particular interview is with a man or a woman. Similarly, the way that files are linked, for example mother and daughter pairs interviewed separately and together, may be more or less clearly flagged up in the organisation of the data.