

Title of Dissertation: An Integrated Social Research Software Package

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Abstract

Social survey work involves the collection, manipulation and analysis of large amount of data; Task which are intrinsically well suited to computers. A popular trend in software designed to support such work, is to integrate the main functions into a single package.

As ideas in social science evolve then it often becomes necessary to develop new supporting functions. Recent examples are the emergence of the concept of questionnaire modularisation and the availability of specialised field terminals. This dissertation describes work directed towards the development of means to support modularisation, field terminals and path analysis within integrated environment. The topic of questionnaire modularisation is new and the proposed solution, which utilises what are termed class descriptors, is believed to be unique.

The viability of these ideas, together with many secondary objectives, are demonstrated by means of an integrated IBM AT software package written in C and consisting of 32 modules or about 2700 lines of source code.