

Dynamic List Building Using Blaise

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Data collection instruments frequently ask redundant questions that collect data containing the same or similar information. For instance, enumerating questions might collect addresses for multiple people where each person has the same address, or might have a different or alternate address. This paper addresses the problems and issues of building a dynamic list of respondent answers and using that list as a pick list for answers to future questions in the survey for the current administration session.

To reduce both interviewer error entering the data as well as respondent burden repeating the same answers over and over again, Blaise can be programmed to build a list of suitable answers maintained within each case. For subsequent times through these questions, the instrument will display a list of the previously entered answers. If the next respondent answer is on the list the interviewer can simply pick the correct entry. If the respondent offers a “new” answer, that answer will be entered and added to the list. That answer will become available the next time a question is asked using that set of categories. This paper will discuss the programming necessary to build such lists.

Abstract