

Collection of Paradata in CAPI System

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Abstract:

The paradata of a survey are data about the process by which the survey data were collected. Sometimes paradata is described as "administrative data about the survey" or "process data".

The CAPI Case Management System at Statistics Finland was renewed completely in 2008 - 2009. Telecommunications it is based on fast wireless broadband connection. Also the interviewers interface was designed totally anew with several enhancements. One of the most important enhancements is the collection of contact history data of field interviews which is automatically transmitted to the central office. This is an addendum to the process data which is automatically recorded in the electronic questionnaires. The fast telecommunication allows for transmitting even large amounts of data, such as audit trail files, audio files and even video files.

Apart from the technical description of CMS and telecommunications, the presentation includes description of the collection of paradata and plans for its processing. Typically, there are paradata about each observation in the survey which makes the analysis fairly challenging. The presentation includes discussion on potential uses of paradata.