



# The UK's Survey Question Bank: Present and Future Developments

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# What is the SQB?

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- Successor to the CASS/ESRC Question Bank (Qb), run from the University of Surrey
- SQB extends the coverage of the former Qb and adds new survey resources/tools
- A central part of the resource remains a searchable databank of survey documents from the major UK social surveys
- A question search – launched November 2010 – permits resource discovery at finer granularity and integrates with the document search

# Who is the SQB for?

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- Social and economic researchers, wishing to locate survey questions and browse questionnaires as part of their 'pre-analysis'
- Commissioners/managers of social research, working in all sectors, interested in seeing whether and how questions on their topic of interest have been framed in other surveys
- Teachers of survey methods with a specific interest in questionnaire design/methodology
- PhD/postgraduate students

# What information does the SQB hold?

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- SQB provides access to the questionnaires, in PDF format, from a range of major UK social surveys conducted, for the most part, since the mid-1990s
- Question text from over 200,000 questions from 50 survey series
- Users of the former Qb will recognise many of the survey methods resources that were an important component of the old resource
- Also imported from the former Qb are the topics-based resources
- (Like the former Qb) the SQB does not hold/make available survey data or results

# SURVEY QUESTION BANK



Welcome to the **Survey Question Bank (SQB)**, co-ordinated by the **UK Data Archive** at the University of Essex.

## SURVEY RESOURCES NETWORK

### SURVEY QUESTION BANK About the SQB

- News
- Events
- History
- Question bank
- Surveys
- Topics
- Data collection zone
- Innovation zone
- Scales and instruments zone
- Harmonisation and classification zone
- International zone
- Learning and teaching zone
- Key contacts


## SURVEY SKILLS

## SURVEY DESIGN AND MEASUREMENT

## SURVEY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS


## WHAT'S POPULAR?




surveynet.ac.uk  
surveynet.ac.uk

The Survey Question Bank is taking part in a Question Database Workshop, Paris, 2011-01-28:  
<http://bit.ly/g013Pd>  
38 days ago · reply

New working papers on survey response in longitudinal studies uploaded at  
<http://surveynet.ac.uk/s...>  
32 days ago · reply


Join the conversation

### Get started

A-Z surveys Methods fact sheets Search the site

Search questionnaires Topic

A-Z topics Find questions

overviews

created at TagCrowd.com

### Who is the SQB for?

- social and economic researchers, wishing to [find survey questions](#) and [search questionnaires](#) as part of their 'pre-analysis'
- commissioners (managers) of social research, working in all sectors, interested in seeing

## SURVEY QUESTION BANK

I want to ...

[Find questions](#)

[Search questionnaires](#)

[Locate variables](#)

Take me to ...

- [SQB methods fact sheets](#)
- [SQB topic overviews](#)

### Get involved

SRN on



SRN on



SRN on



### News and events

**27-29 June 2011**

[ITACOSM11: Second ITALian Conference on Survey Methodology](#)

**18-22 July 2011**

[Fourth Conference of the European Survey Research Association \(ESRA\)](#)

- [NCRM news](#)
- [NCRM training & events](#)
- [NatCen events & training](#)
- [ESDS events](#)
- [Methodspace events](#)

# Two search engines

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- Document (questionnaire) search - [surveynet.ac.uk/index/search.aspx?collectionid=1099](http://surveynet.ac.uk/index/search.aspx?collectionid=1099)
  - library of survey documents (PDF)
  - break up; mark up; index
    - Tag according to document type; survey mode; country; study type; cross-national; year
    - Add keywords
  - powered by TabulaDX (proprietary software)
- Question search – [surveynet.ac.uk/sqb/qb/questions.asp](http://surveynet.ac.uk/sqb/qb/questions.asp)
  - database of survey questions
  - harvested from Nesstar

# Question search mechanics

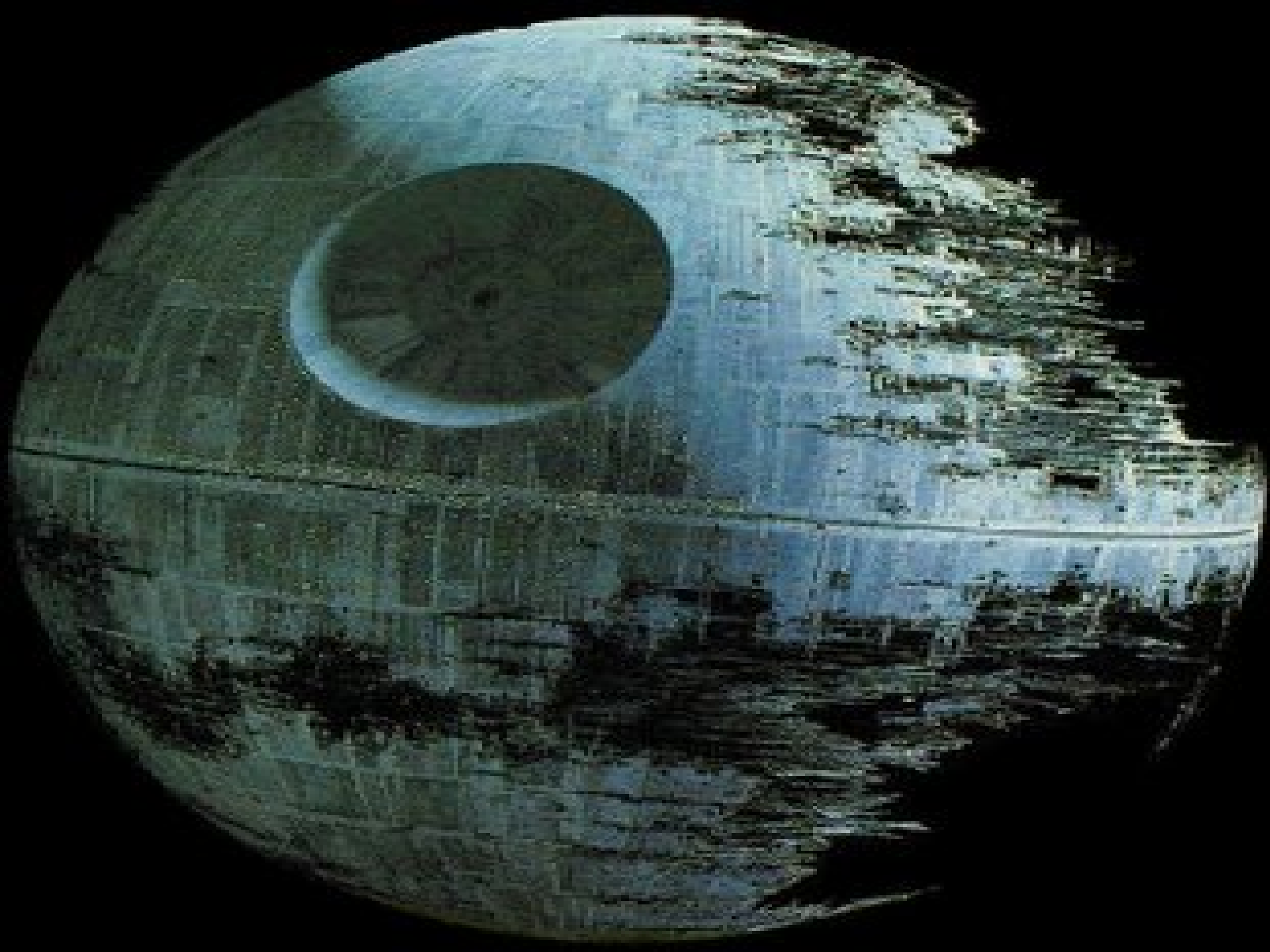
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- Tool allows users to search across a selection of key, recent UK social surveys held in the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) Nesstar Data Catalogue - around 50 survey series and more than 200,000 questions (variables)
- (Freetext) search/retrieve questions and link results to: the survey response (frequency counts), the question as it appears in its native questionnaire, and the full survey dataset available via the ESDS
- Tool queries a set of fields stored as DDI 1.2 metadata in a Nesstar Publisher database

# DDI fields used (/to be used)

- **Study-level information <stdyDescr>**
  - Survey title <citation><titlStmt><titl>
  - SN <citation><titlStmt><IDNo>
  - Year <stdyInfo><subject><keyword vocab="Y">
  - Country <stdyInfo><sumDscr><nation>
  - Universe sampled <stdyInfo><sumDscr><universe>
  - Study type <method><dataColl><timeMeth>
  - Sampling <method><dataColl><sampProc>
- **Variable-level information <dataDescr>**
  - Variable ID <var ID="">
  - Question text <var><qstn><qstnLit>
- **Response-level information <dataDescr>**
  - Response value <var><catgry><catValu>
  - Response value label <var><catgry><labl>

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- **Online Demonstration**



# Next steps: v.1.1

## SURVEY QUESTION BANK

QUESTION BANK


<< [Previous question](#) beta      beta [Next question](#) >>

**Question text:** Generally speaking, do you think there is a lot of prejudice in the UK against disabled people in general, a little, hardly any or none?

**Responses:**

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Hardly any
- 4 None
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Not answered

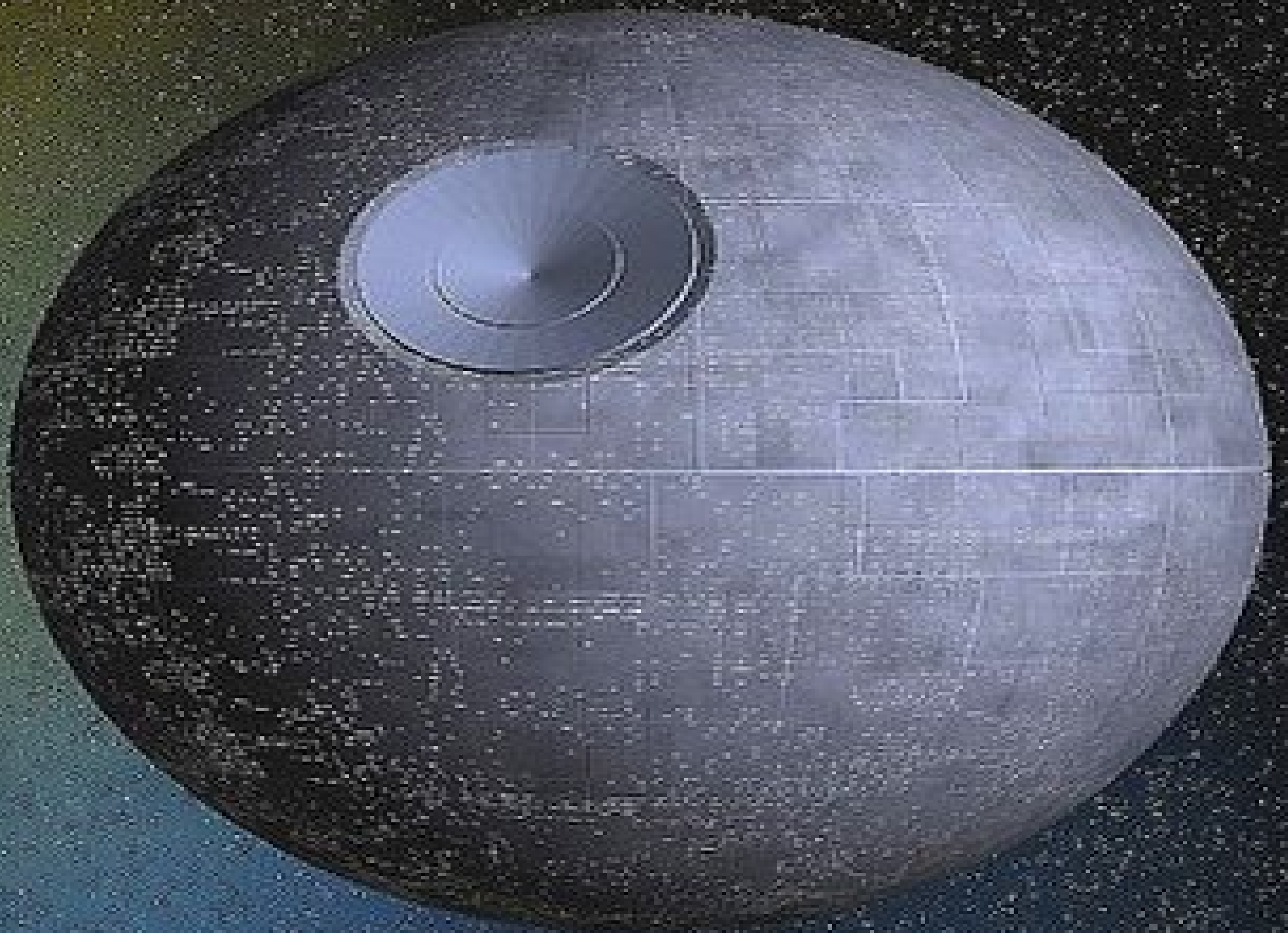
**Survey title:** Northern Ireland Life And Times Survey, 2009

<p><a href="#">View response frequencies for this question</a></p> 	<p><a href="#">Access full survey dataset</a></p> 
<p><a href="#">View this question in other years of the same survey series</a></p> <p>QUESTION BANK</p>	<p><a href="#">View the same question in other surveys</a></p> <p>QUESTION BANK</p>
<p><a href="#">View this question in original questionnaire(s)</a> beta</p> <p>QUESTION BANK</p>	<p>Search for this question elsewhere:</p> <p><a href="#">ICPSR database</a></p>

# Next steps: v.2.0

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- Plan to copy, then re-engineer the underlying database so that the metadata are held in DDI 3.x
  - to take advantage of questionScheme, questionItem etc.
- Add further question (variable)-level metadata so that:
  - harmonised questions (e.g., <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/harmonisation/index.html>) can be identified
  - questions that belong to a wider family (e.g., component questions of instruments/modules; questions in long studies) can be matched
  - keywords/concepts added; perhaps type of question?
  - integrate with other services?
  - allow user annotations?
- Borrow ideas from other question banks - à propos this workshop!





[surveysnet.ac.uk/sqb/](https://surveysnet.ac.uk/sqb/)

[info@surveysnet.ac.uk](mailto:info@surveysnet.ac.uk)

