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论文

社会调查中职业问题编码的方式与质量研究

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摘要:

职业是社会科学研究的重要变量,然而社会调查中的职业编码很容易出现偏差。目前我国社会调查中主要采用访员实地编码与访问结束后由编码员进行集中编码两种方式。基于经验数据分析发现,这两种编码方式的结果存在较大的差异。这些差异一方面受访员职业信息的记录质量、访员编码经验及访员自身特征的影响,另一方面也与不同职业类别的编码难度有关。因此,在社会调查中要注意监控访员职业信息的记录规范,并采用有质控的编码员集中编码的方式来提高职业问题编码的数据质量。

关键词: 社会调查 职业编码 数据质量

Methods and Quality of Occupational Coding in Social Surveys

Ren Liying Qiu Zeqi Li Li Yan Jie

Abstract:

Occupation is an important variable in social science research, but mistakes in the coding process of occupations in survey research are .unavoidable . Coding operations can take various forms . They are distinguished as centralized coding and decentralized coding based on their work sites, or as manual coding and computer-assisted coding based on their coding tools . Thus, combining these two dimensions there are four coding methods : manual centralized coding, manual decentralized coding, computer-assisted centralized coding, and computer-assisted decentralized coding. Computer-assisted coding has not been well developed in China, so most Chinese surveys employed the first two coding methods: interviewers carrying out coding during the interviewing process|or experienced coders performing the coding within the survey organization after data collection. When choosing coding methods, survey practitioners usually have three factors in mind: cost, time efficiency, and coding quality. It is commonly believed that on-site coding by interviewers is cheaper and quicker than coders'centralized coding. However, there have been contradictory attitudes towards the quality of these two coding methods, and there have been very few empirical studies about that . Based on analysis of the occupational information collected by the Chinese Family Panel Studies (CFPS) in 2010, this study compares the results from these two existing coding methods in China and discusses the core factors that affect coding quality . This study shows that coding results from these two methods differ greatly. Regarding the most detailed coding with 595 categories, only about one-third of the results from these two methods are identical. Even for simple coding with only eight categories, the proportion of identification still makes up only three-fourths. Interviewers't ext recording quality is an important factor that affects coding quality. In addition, interviewers' background and coding experiences are two main reasons for the discrepancies in the detailed coding results. It is also shown in this study that occupational categories have different levels of coding difficulty which also have an effect on coding results . Administration of quality control over interviewers'o n-site occupational coding is difficult in practice. Therefore, in rigorous social surveys, especially when detailed coding results are needed, it is strongly suggested to use the method of centralized coding. Moreover, since the guality of the interviewers text recording is so important to the collection of accurate and complete occupational information, the following steps are recommended : establish a standard for interviewers'text recoding, strengthen the training of interviewers, and check their performance on a regular basis .It is also important to enhance quality control in the coding process, such as paying more attention to the design of the coding process as well as the supervision of the coders' work. These suggestions can be effectively put into practice in computer-assisted interviewing surveys.

Keywords: social survey occupational coding data quality

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