

THE EVER CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION

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The world needs statistics. All through history, there always have been statistics. And we will need statistics in the future too. But it will also become clear that the way in which we collect data for our statistics changes in the course of time.

The first part of the presentation is devoted to the past, and describes some important historic developments that led to the current situation. Among them are the rise of survey sampling and the increasing role of the computer for data collection.

The second part describes the current situation. The rapid rise of web surveys is discussed. Is this a good alternative for CAPI and CATI surveys? Other current challenges are reducing budgets for surveys, increasing nonresponse rates, and lack of proper sampling frames.

The third part of the presentation discusses possible future developments. Are there other means of data collection that avoid the current challenges? Several approaches are discussed:

- Non-probability sampling, including self-selection and sample matching.
- Model-based estimation
- Using big data
- Stick to survey sampling with improved correction techniques.