

Review of Alternatives for Database Management

Two data collections:

1. The DAS,
2. Annual data collection; staff and p/g students.

Currently these are separate exercises.

Directory of Academic Statisticians (DAS)

A by-product of Phase I of the project is that it forms the basis for an electronic Directory of Academic Statisticians database. Since 1996 the data supplied by the universities to the DAS have been stored in electronic text files. For the years 1984-1995 the data are not available electronically. However, hardcopies of the DAS from this period have been preserved. For the purpose of this project, data pertaining to years 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 have been put into an Excel file. Groups, corresponding to departments in formal academic terms, are treated as observations, whilst the numbers of staff in them are treated as variables.

An example of the data structure is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Data structure of the file constructed for Phase 1 of the project

Inst	department	2005	2004	2000	1996	1992	1988	1984	core/ non-core	RAE 2001	RAE 1996	former names
		People	People	People	People	People	People	People				
Aberdeen	Department of Mathen	2	4	8	9	10	6	7	1	4	3a	Department of Statis

Proposal 1.

Complete the historical database.

Future alternatives

1. Continue as now.
2. Combine the two collection exercises.
3. Update the data base annually, i.e. better data management.
4. Create a population register, with births, deaths and migration.

Proposal 2.

COPS should combine the two data collection exercises

Problems

Cost

Time

Analysis

Data privacy and confidentiality

Proposal 3.

COPS should update the database annually and analyse trends.