Questionnaires

Concept, aims and types of questionnaires

Concept:

- > A method to collect data
- We are interested in the opinion or knowledge of persons regarding the object of our research

Objectives:

- > Characterizing a phenomenon based on data obtained from the questionnaire
- ➤ Keeping or discarding a hypothesis → sets the direction of further research

Types:

- > 1 occasion
- Repeated once
 - > Repeated at any time
 - > Repeated according to a schedule
- Repeated multiple times
 - > Repeated with irregular intervals
 - > Repeated with regular intervals

Tasks and stages of conducting a questionnaire study

- 1. Orientation, literature search, raise research questions
- 2. Determine basic concepts and indicators of the research topic
- 3. Decide:
 - number and characters of persons to be interviewed
 - method of filling in the questionnaire
- 4. Plan and set up the questionnaire
- 5. Distribute the questionnaire to collect answers
- 6. Data evaluation, draw conclusions

Questionnaiers - possible mistakes

- ► Raising the problem: finding not the most important concepts, not the most appropriate indicators
- How to ask questions....
 - ... politely but effectively?
 - ▶ The question should not be too complicated or easy to misunderstand
 - ▶ Possible mistake: content, format, length of question
- Determining the population participating
- Questionnaire: e.g. not a logical order of questions, not the most important questions
- ▶ Other possible mistakes: e.g. site or time of questioning is not suitable, not pleasant atmosphere etc.

Indicators: characters of an issue that can be measured

Structure of a questionnaire

Introduction:

- ► Title of questionnaire
- ► Aims of the questionnaire
- ▶ Age, gender, profession, place of living of the person asked

Main part:

Questions arranged in question groups

Final part:

- Option to provide his/her opinion, summarize thoughts related to questionnaire topic
- Saying thanks

Types of questions

According to aim of question:

- Main questions: from which we can draw conclusions
- Motivating questions: maintains the interest of the person filling in the questionnaire
- Complementary questions: not closely related to our main topic, discussing further aspects of the main questions

According to possible answers:

- Open question: free answers (number, length, content)
- Closed question: pre-formed answers (simple choice and multiple choice questions)
- ▶ Rank questions: things have to be arranged according to an order
- Questions on frequency, degree of preference

Types of questions

According to form:

- ▶ Wh-questions: e.g. Who....? What? Why....? When.....?
- Yes/No questions:
- Option: e.g. Do you prefer the chemical or biological method of water purification?

Possible answers for questions on:

- ► Frequency: never, rarely, sometimes, frequently, always
- ▶ Intensity: not at all, hardly, to a medium degree, substantially, very much
- Probability: no way, not likely, perhaps, quite possible, sure

Questions often appear in the form of a task (e.g. Choose...., Characterize....)

Preparing surveys online

















