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Types of Survey

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There are various types of surveys you can choose from. Basically, the types of surveys are broadly categorized into two: according to instrumentation and according to the span of time involved. The types of surveys according to instrumentation include the questionnaire and the interview. On the other hand, the types of surveys according to the span of time used to conduct the survey are comprised of cross-sectional surveys and longitudinal surveys.

The banner features the Explorable logo and the text "Quiz Time!". Below the logo are three quiz cards:

- Card 1: Image of red roller skates on a wooden deck. Quiz: Psychology 101 Part 2
- Card 2: Image of a fan of colorful pencils. Quiz: Psychology 101 Part 2
- Card 3: Image of a Ferris wheel at sunset. Quiz: Flags in Europe

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According to Instrumentation

In survey research, the instruments that are utilized can be either a questionnaire or an interview [1] (either structured or unstructured).

1. Questionnaires

Typically, a questionnaire [2] is a paper-and-pencil instrument that is administered to the respondents. The usual questions found in questionnaires are closed-ended questions, which are followed by response options. However, there are questionnaires that ask open-ended questions to explore the answers of the respondents.

Questionnaires have been developed over the years. Today, questionnaires are utilized in various survey methods [3], according to how they are given. These methods include the self-administered, the group-administered, and the household drop-off. Among the three, the self-administered survey method is often used by researchers nowadays. The self-administered

questionnaires are widely known as the mail survey method. However, since the response rates related to mail surveys had gone low, questionnaires are now commonly administered online, as in the form of web surveys.

- **Advantages:** Ideal for asking closed-ended questions; effective for market or consumer research
- **Disadvantages:** Limit the researcher's understanding of the respondent's answers; requires budget for reproduction of survey questionnaires

2. Interviews

Between the two broad types of surveys, interviews [1] are more personal and probing. Questionnaires do not provide the freedom to ask follow-up questions to explore the answers of the respondents, but interviews do.

An interview includes two persons - the researcher as the interviewer, and the respondent [4] as the interviewee. There are several survey methods that utilize interviews. These are the personal or face-to-face interview, the phone interview [5], and more recently, the online interview [6].

- **Advantages:** Follow-up questions can be asked; provide better understanding of the answers of the respondents
- **Disadvantages:** Time-consuming; many target respondents have no public-listed phone numbers or no telephones at all

According to the Span of Time Involved

The span of time needed to complete the survey brings us to the two different types of surveys: cross-sectional and longitudinal.

1. Cross-Sectional Surveys

Collecting information from the respondents at a single period in time uses the cross-sectional type of survey. Cross-sectional [7] surveys usually utilize questionnaires to ask about a particular topic at one point in time. For instance, a researcher conducted a cross-sectional survey asking teenagers' views on cigarette smoking as of May 2010. Sometimes, cross-sectional surveys are used to identify the relationship between two variables [8], as in a comparative study. An example of this is administering a cross-sectional survey about the relationship of peer pressure and cigarette smoking among teenagers as of May 2010.

2. Longitudinal Surveys

When the researcher attempts to gather information over a period of time or from one point in time up to another, he is doing a longitudinal [9] survey. The aim of longitudinal surveys is to collect data and examine the changes in the data gathered. Longitudinal surveys are used in cohort studies [10], panel studies and trend studies.

Source URL: <https://explorable.com/types-of-survey>

Links

[1] <https://explorable.com/personal-interview-survey>

- [2] <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/survtype.php>
- [3] <https://explorable.com/selecting-the-survey-method>
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