How to link tables held in the Central Postcode Directory

An example is the linking of the Electoral Ward 1992 table to the Postcode table to get a link or lookup between Postcode and Electoral Office District Electoral Areas (DEA).

Within Microsoft Access

To browse the records:

Open the Ward 1992 table. Identify the wards that you are looking for and click on the plus sign (+) button on the left hand side of the table. The postcodes within that ward and DEA will be listed.

To query the records:

Create a new query in the design view window. Add in the postcode table and the ward1992 table. Select all the fields that you require (for example pc1 from the postcode table and DEA and DEAName from the ward1992 table). Add in any ordering required and then save and run the query.

Using SPSS

Read in the text data file Ward1992.txt. Tick that variable names are included at the top of the file. When asked for delimiters – enter $ into other. Ensure all variables types are entered correctly. Sort by Ward1992 and save the file. Repeat the procedure for the Postcodes table. Using the Data Menu click Merge files and add variables. Identify the Wards1992 file (which you previously saved). Click 'Match cases on key variables in sorted files' and 'external file is keyed table'. Move variable Ward1992 into the key variables box. Select which variables are required in the new file (for example pc1, DEA and DEAName). Click ok. Save new file.

How to link data from NI Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) to the Central Postcode Directory

Example 1: Assume that you want to link the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measure indicator data to the Super Output Area table from the Central Postcode Directory.

Go to the NINIS website and enter 'Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017' in the top Data Search box. Click on Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (statistical

geographies) and save to your local hard drive. Read this Excel file into Access or SPSS linking to the CPD as described above and create the derived table as required.

Example 2: Assume that you want to link the 2004 Output Area Income Support claimant counts to the Census Output Area table on the CPD.

Go to the [NINIS website](#) and enter 'Income Support' in the top Data Search box. This returns the Income Support Claimants (statistical geographies) data by different levels of geography, including Output Area. Click to download data and save to your local hard drive. Read the relevant sheet of the Excel file into Access or SPSS linking to the CPD as described above and create the derived table as required.

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