Coding occupations

The new coding process

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Structure

- Why this subject?
- Why change current process?
- Current system
- New system
- Adjusted data collection
- New coding process
- Characteristics of Cascot
- Test results
- Pros and cons

Why this subject?

- Introduction of measuring occupation by using internet mode, without an interviewer present during the interview, required other system

- Minimalize differences in outcome when using multi-mode surveys and over surveys

Why change current process?

- Redesign social surveys
  - Reduce costs
  - Similar questions and coding systems for all different kinds of interview modes
  - Reduce interview time
  - Legislative obligations to deliver data given priority

- IT policy
  - No custom-made software applications, only standard tools

Current system

- Computer assisted coding by interviewers semi-automatic, interactive
- Interviewers need training

New system

- All coding takes place after data collection
- Collected data stored in database
- Generic system for all surveys
- Results (ISCO codes) are also stored in database
- The larger part of coding is automatically

Adjusted data collection

- Changes in questions
  - Jobtitle and duties– still open questions
  - Some extra questions about managerial occupations
    - distinction between managers and supervisors

New data process

- Coding in 4 steps
- First 3 steps run automatically
- If required, last step manually
- Data from respondents as well as the outcome of coding process stored in one database

Characteristics of Cascot

- Generic tool: classification independent
- Uses a classificationfile
  - Classification (e.g. ISCO08)
  - Index (search phrases)
  - Coding rules
- Inputfile -> coding per record -> Outputfile
- Result: code + score

Test results

- LFS-pilot: cawi, cati, capi
  - 74% automatically coded (step 1, 2, 3)
  - > 90% coded correctly
  - So, 26% needs manual coding (30% in current situation)

Pros and cons

+ Reduced interview time;

+ Reduced costs to train interviewers

+ Avoids risk of divergence due to interviewer interpretations;

+ Similar coding process in all modes using the same questions, and that uses a system in automatic coding and manual coding process;

+ applicable in other countries as well

+ cheap system to purchase

 - No feedback to respondent

 - Manual coding still necessary