What else do I need to know?

A database is not a universal remedy for the many ailments of data management. However, it is a useful tool that can be customized to your individual needs. Quantitative Health Sciences is available for assistance and can provide support for ongoing or future projects.

Other QHS brochures

How Quantitative Health Sciences Can Satisfy Your Research Needs
Sound Principals for Simple Statistics

Related QHS Database Brochures

Database Ownership
Avoiding Pitfalls That Result in Bad Data
Guidelines for Detecting Bad Data
Working with Spreadsheets
Using REDCap to Capture Good Data
Don’t Monkey Around Use Survey Monkey
Markedly good data

What is Remark?

- Remark is a Windows-based forms-processing software package for scanning and forms.
  
  - The software recognizes optical marks (bubbles), machine-generated characters (OCR) and barcodes.
  
  - It does not recognize characters. These must be hand entered.
  
  - The data can be exported to the application of your choice.

How do you use Remark?

- To read a form in Remark Office OMR, users go through a simple "training" process to show the software how to read the form.
  
  - The result is a template file that can be used over and over to process forms. Training is accomplished with the Remark Office OMR Template Editor.
  
  - It is a simple procedure where you scan a form, the software displays the image of the form, and with the mouse, you drag "boxes" around the areas of marks and fill in some information about these areas (defines what each mark should translate into if filled in).

QHS will be happy to assist you with your project. It is best if you meet with QHS prior to completion of your data collection form. QHS will assist with training you how to use Remark.

Advantages

- Greatly reduces data entry error

- Can be used without the use of the Internet (mailed surveys). REDCap might be an alternative choice for a database, but requires computer access.

- Remark red flags data fields that are not recognized (multiple responses or questionable fill-ins).

Disadvantages

- Takes some time to set up the survey in Remark

- Can not read open-text fields

- Researcher needs to schedule time for scanning.

IRB Approval

If you are collecting data for the purposes of human subject review, review and approval of the project is required by your Institutional Review Board.

What is needed?

A well thought plan of what data is needed. QHS can help.

- Understanding how to set up the survey, first as a Word document and then in Remark. QHS can teach you how to do this.

- Software and a good scanner

  - QHS has a scanner and computer available in their office suite. Prior scheduling for the availability of the room is needed.

  - A good copier is critical for your surveys, since a clean copy is required for Remark (a copier that produces lines will not work well with the areas you highlighted). It is important that multiple copiers are not used for the surveys, since they may have different set ups and if the survey pages have shifted, then Remark will not recognize the highlighted areas you defined.

  - Pretesting the survey prior to distribution is important to make sure all questions are recognizing the responses.

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