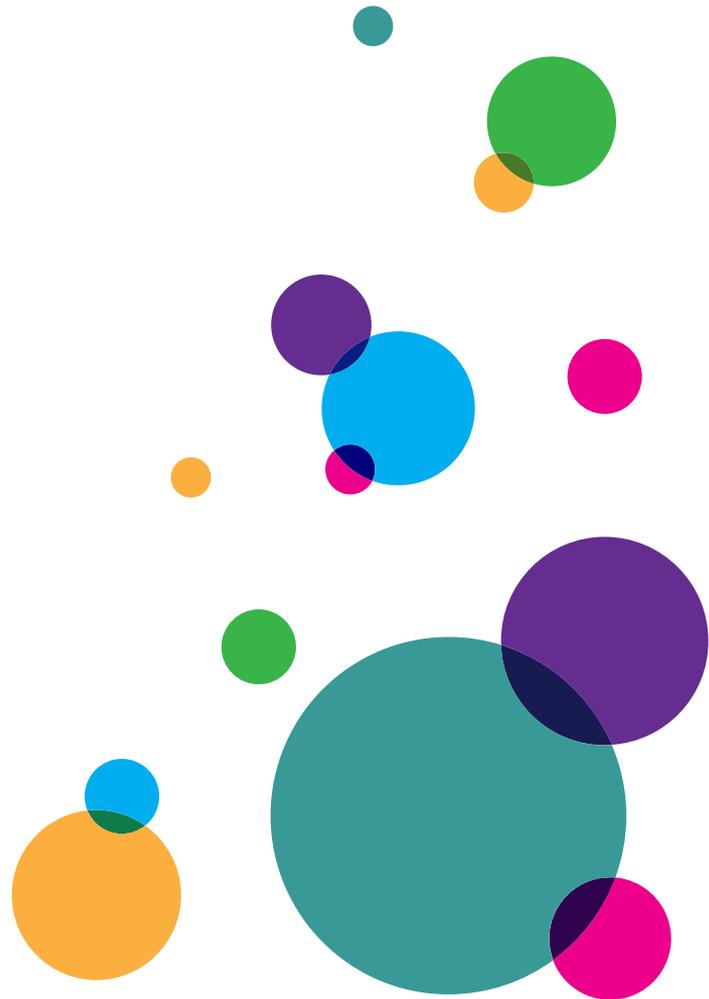


How to get the most out of CLOSER Discovery

Hayley Mills - CLOSER Senior Metadata Manager

March 2024



Outline

- Part 1 -
 - CLOSER
 - CLOSER Discovery
 - Key features
 - Summary of benefits
- Part 2 - Feedback and redesign
- Part 3 - CLOSER Discovery demonstration
- Part 4 - Q&A



CLOSER & CLOSER Discovery





*Increase the visibility, use and impact of
longitudinal population studies, data and research*



[CLOSER website](#)



CLOSER resources

CLOSER Discovery

Search and explore data from UK longitudinal population studies

Our Changing Society

Historical and political backdrop to the lives of study participants

Cross-study guides

Interactive guides on cognition, physical activity, and diet measures

Learning Hub

Resources for those new to longitudinal population studies

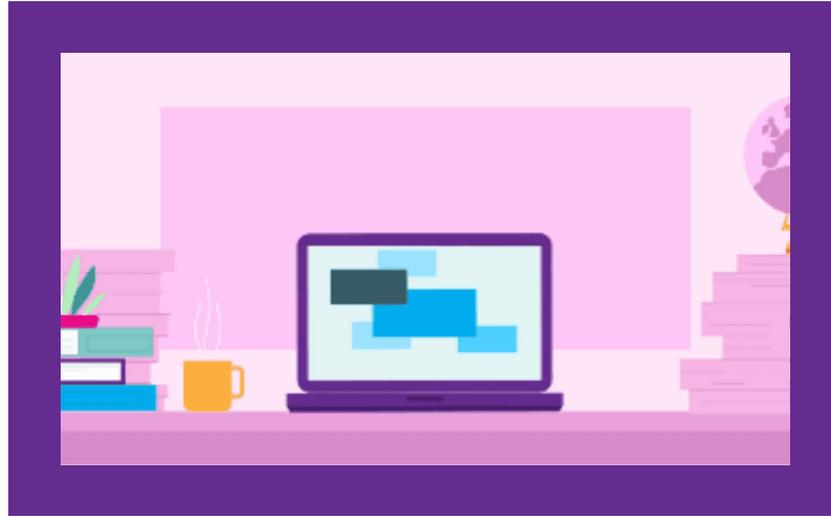
Training Hub

Advanced learning resources and training opportunities

Policy Hub

Bespoke guidance, tools and templates to help mobilise research





...Navigating the complexities of locating, understanding and using this data can be a daunting task...



[CLOSER Discovery animation \(YouTube\)](#)



closer Discovery

“The Discovery research tool makes it so much easier to work out what questions and variables are available in a study.” - PhD student



[Discovery website](#)



Benefits for researchers

- LPS information all in one place and standard topic list
 - Users know where to go
 - Saves time
 - Helps cross study comparisons
- Consistent high-level information helps users get to know the study
- Consistent detailed information enables searches at variable/question level
- Variable provenance (e.g. question or source variables) to understand context
- Assess data to determine usefulness, before requesting or accessing data



[Discover the future blog](#)



Benefits for Data Managers

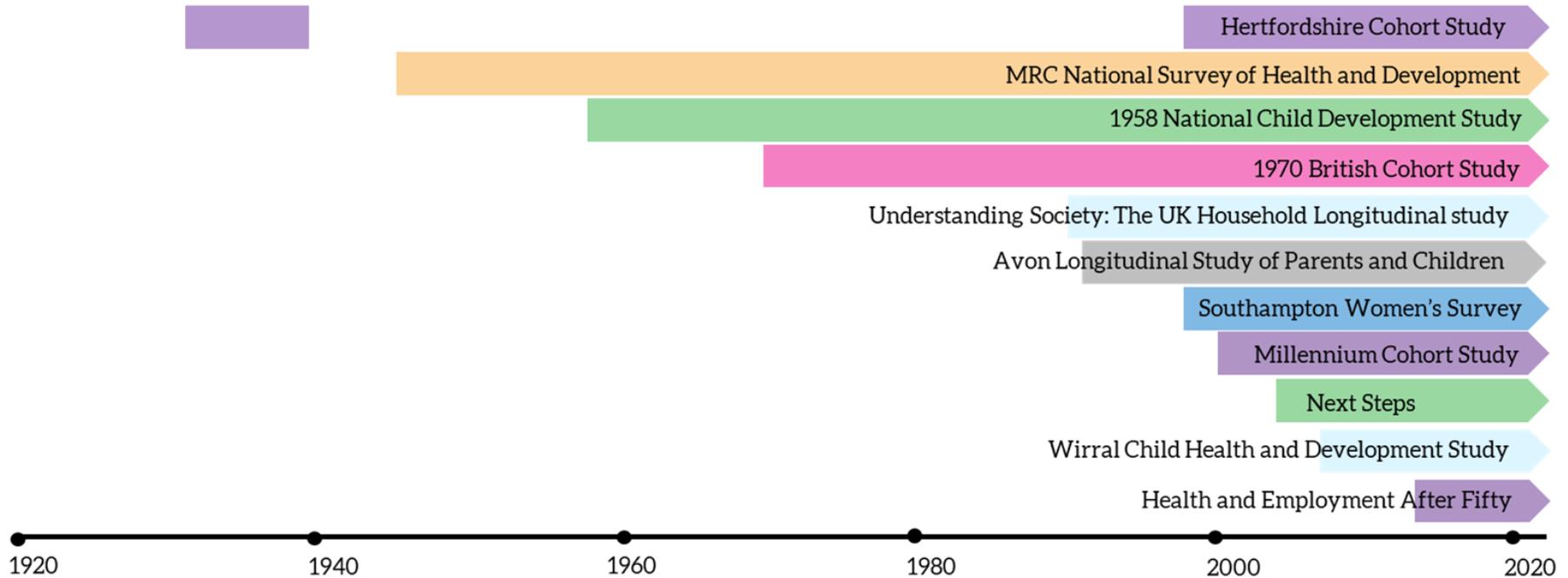
- Researchers can browse and explore Discovery before contacting the study
- Reduces knowledge loss as key metadata is documented
- Documented using international metadata standards and API available for interoperability
- Documented using international metadata standards to ensure metadata is futureproof



[Discover the future blog](#)



Partner studies in Discovery



BROWSE



Explore available studies:



[Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#)

BCS70

[1970 British Cohort Study](#)



[Hertfordshire Cohort Study](#)

MRC

[Millennium Cohort Study](#)



[National Child Development Study](#)



[National Survey of Health and Development](#)

SEARCH



Search query

Variables

Search

Item Type

Variables (-177,686)

Study

None selected

Sweep

None selected

Life Stage

None selected

Topic

None selected

[More...](#)

EXPLORE



[Demographics](#)

[Mental health and mental processes](#)

[Family and social networks](#)

[Expectations, attitudes and beliefs](#)

[Omics](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Housing and local environment](#)

[Health care](#)

[Education](#)

[Child development](#)

[Pregnancy](#)

[Physical health](#)

[Health behaviour](#)

[Employment and income](#)

[Life events](#)

[Administration](#)



Questionnaires

Flowchart

alspac_99_ttd

Things For You to Do

Statement

Thank you for filling this in. Children of the 90s loves to look at the things you draw!

A1

qi A1

Do you ever have a headache?

Question

Hide Codes ^

Code Domain

- 1 yes, quite often
- 2 yes, sometimes
- 3 yes, I had one once
- 4 no, never

Responses

Routing

If no, go to question A3 below
Code v

PDF



© University of Bristol

2

A1. Do you ever have a headache?

yes, quite often

yes, sometimes

yes, I had one once

no, never

→ If **no**, go to question A3 below

A2. For your last headache, please shade in where the pain was in these two pictures of a head.



Questions

Variables

Question [Appears in Questionnaire](#) [Related Variables](#) [Question Groups](#)

Name qi_32

Label 32

Question Text How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?

Instructions CROSS (X) ONE BOX

Representation Type Code List

Selection Style SelectOne

Codes [cs_q32](#)

- 1 [Never](#)
- 2 [Monthly or less](#)
- 3 [2-4 times a month](#)
- 4 [2-3 times a week](#)
- 5 [4 or more times a week](#)

Variable Description [Representation](#) [Source Questions](#) [Lineage](#) [Variable Groups](#)

Name B9SCQ32

Label PAPI:Frequency of having an alcoholic drink

Dataset  [BCS70 Paper Self Completion \(2012\) Dataset](#)

B9SCQ32

Summary Statistics for 'B9SCQ32'

Value	Valid	Label	Frequency	% of Valid	% of All
-9	× Missing	Not Stated	104		1.05%
-8	× Missing	Multicode	47		0.48%
-1	× Missing	Paper self completion not received	1,107		11.20%
1	✓ Valid	Never	855	9.92%	8.65%
2	✓ Valid	Monthly or less	1,734	20.11%	17.55%
3	✓ Valid	2-4 times a month	2,043	23.69%	20.68%
4	✓ Valid	2-3 times a week	2,585	29.98%	26.16%
5	✓ Valid	4 or more times a week	1,406	16.31%	14.23%



Lists

Details

Title

My CLOSER Discovery list

Subtitle

Test list

Principal Investigator

Hayley Mills

Description

Test list of variables for publication

Citation

Mills, H. 2021 My CLOSER Discovery list

Persistent ID

83fea8a4-e50b-4f8a-88d0-af50cd962213

Created

27/10/2020 15:03:24

Last Updated

16/05/2021 14:20:08

Accessibility

Private

 Activate

 Edit

 Remove

Variables (8)

Download Metadata ▾



[cce200](#)

A10: Degree to which child likes bedroom

[Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#)
[ALSPAC Childhood \(5 years to 12 years 11 months\)](#)
[ALSPAC My World Questionnaire Dataset](#)



[feag206](#)

DV: MPVA>=2296 Mean sedentary minutes per valid day: F11

[Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#)
[ALSPAC Childhood \(5 years to 12 years 11 months\)](#)
[ALSPAC Focus 11+ Clinic Dataset](#)



[fm1sa013](#)

Consent to Haemoglobin test: FOM1

[Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#)
[ALSPAC Adolescence \(13 years - 18 years 11 months\)](#)
[ALSPAC Focus on Mothers 1 Clinic Dataset](#)

Create,
share and
export lists



PDF



XML



Excel



CLOSER Discovery new design



Redesign process

- Bravand - digital design company with experience of complex websites
- In-depth interviews:
 - Covered different perspectives
 - Both current and potential users of CLOSER Discovery
- Redesign was based on user feedback
- Colectica developers implemented
- Focused on home, search and explore pages

Bravand.

closer.

colectica



[Behind the redesign: CLOSER Discovery blog](#)



User-testing feedback: homepage

The screenshot shows the CLOSER Discovery homepage. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation links: About, Search, Explore, Lists (57), and Admin. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'Help' link. The main content area features the CLOSER Discovery logo and tagline 'Explore the content of UK longitudinal studies', and the Economic and Social Research Council logo. The page is divided into several sections: 'New to CLOSER Discovery?' with introductory text and a search bar; 'Explore by topic' with a 'COVID-19 variables and questions' link and a list of studies; 'Variable and question search' with a search input field; and 'Search by type' with four cards showing counts for Datasets (490), Variables (190,021), Questionnaires (337), and Questions (49,683). At the bottom, there is a copyright notice: 'Copyright © 2022 CLOSER. View licence agreement.' Three grey speech bubbles with white text provide user feedback: 'Not sure where to start - everything looks samey' (top right), 'Design looks dated' (middle right), and 'Too much text, too many text links' (bottom right). A fourth speech bubble at the bottom left says 'Surface Help - you have to go find help. It seems to be there, but not at the point needed'. A small logo of three overlapping circles (pink, blue, purple) is in the bottom right corner.

“Not sure where to start - everything looks samey”

“Design looks dated”

Too much text, too many text links”

“Surface *Help* - you have to go find help. It seems to be there, but not at the point needed”

“Important things are not obvious”



Redesign: homepage

Cleaner, clearer, modern home page

List of studies and topics front and centre

How-to help guides easier to find and help also in the footer

The screenshot shows the CLOSER Discovery homepage. At the top left is the logo 'closer Discovery'. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About', and 'Explore'. The main heading is 'Welcome to CLOSER Discovery' with the subtitle 'Search and explore questionnaires and data from the UK's leading longitudinal population studies.' Below this, there are statistics: 338 Questionnaires, 481 Datasets, 190,851 Variables, and 49,835 Questions. A search bar is present with a 'Variables' dropdown and a 'Search' button. The 'Explore available studies:' section features a grid of study cards, each with a logo and title: Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, BCS70 (British Cohort Study), Health and Employment After Fifty, Hertfordshire Cohort Study, Millennium Cohort Study, ncds (National Child Development Study), National Survey of Health and Development, Next Steps, Southampton Women's Survey, and Understanding Society. Below this is a 'New to CLOSER Discovery?' section with a 'Browse how to guides' button and an image of a computer monitor. At the bottom, the 'Explore the questions and variables by topics' section lists various categories: Demographics, Mental health and mental processes, Family and social networks, Expectations, attitudes and beliefs, Optics, COVID-19, Housing and local environment, Health care, Education, Child development, Pregnancy, Physical health, Health behaviour, Employment and income, Life events, and Administration.

User-testing feedback: filters

The screenshot shows the CLOSER Discovery website interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation links: About, Search, Explore, Lists (0), and Admin. Below Admin is a list of filter categories with checkboxes: Studies (0), Sweeps (0), Datasets (0), Variables (190,021), Questionnaires (0), and Questions (46,637). There are 'More...', 'Refine', and 'Reset' buttons. Below the sidebar are buttons for 'Study', 'Life Stage', and 'Topic'. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'Help' link. The main content area features the CLOSER Discovery logo and tagline 'Explore the content of UK longitudinal studies'. Below the logo is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a 'Sort by: Relevance' dropdown menu. The search results section is titled 'Search by text' and explains that search returns text from variable names, question labels, dataset names, or study names. It includes a tip about using a question mark icon for complex searches. Below this is a 'Refine your results' section with a heading 'You can filter your results by:' followed by a bulleted list: Item type (dataset, questionnaire, variable, question), Study (one or more studies), Life Stage (one or more life stages), and Topic (one or more of our 16 top level topics). At the bottom of the main content area is a video player with a red play button and a yellow overlay with the text 'How to search by keyword in CLOSER Discovery'.

“...interacting with *Explore* and *Search*, the refine/filter and reset functions aren't intuitive”

“Surfacing filters alongside *Search* would enable the user to construct their own framework”

“In both *Search* and *Explore*, there's no obvious Reset”

Explore filters



Redesign: filters

Search query Search

Syntax ?

Filter Item Type Study Life Stage Topic Filter [Reset](#)

None selected ▼ None selected ▼ None selected ▼ None selected ▼

Search and Explore filters are more easily accessible, clearly labelled and visible.

Reset buttons are also more obvious.

Explore filters

View Variables ▼ **Filter** Study Life Stage Filter ↻



User-testing feedback: user accounts

The screenshot shows the CLOSER Discovery website. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation links: About, Search, Explore, Lists (0), and Help. The main content area features the CLOSER Discovery logo and tagline 'Explore the content of UK longitudinal studies'. A welcome message says 'Welcome. This appears to be your first visit. Click the button to tour this page.' Below this is a 'New to CLOSER Discovery?' section with introductory text and a 'Variable and question search' box. At the bottom, a 'Search by type' section shows '490 Datasets' with a bar chart icon. The footer contains copyright information: 'Copyright © 2022 CLOSER. View licence agreement.'

“Nobody noticed or mentioned creating an *Account* to create a *list* without a prompt, however, several people mentioned they would like to make a note or list”



a_vote2

closer to one political party than others



Redesign: user accounts

Variable **[B1a1: Child ever uses a computer at home](#)**

[Log in to add to list](#)

Study: [Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#)

Sweep: [ALSPAC Childhood \(5 years to 12 years 11 months\)](#)

Dataset: [ALSPAC Some More About Me Questionnaire Dataset](#)

Name: ccd300

Variable **[B1a1: Child ever uses a computer at home](#)**

Add to list

Study: [Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#)

Sweep: [ALSPAC Childhood \(5 years to 12 years 11 months\)](#)

Dataset: [ALSPAC Some More About Me Questionnaire Dataset](#)

Name: ccd300

 anonymous ▾

 Feedback

 Search

When a user is not logged in, there is a prompt to “Log in to add to list” next to the item.

Home

About

Explore

Redesign: feedback form

 Feedback

 Search

Send Feedback

We welcome your feedback. If you have ideas to make it easier to discover and use the information on this site, please let us know.

Send Feedback

Please provide
CLOSER Discovery
feedback



discovery.closer.ac.uk/Feedback



CLOSER Discovery Demonstration



Live Demo: Key takeaways

- Lots of ways to navigate: browse, explore, search
- Contains metadata only - links will take you to where to request/download the data
- Content is always being added, so keep in mind not everything may be included yet
- Variables and questions only appear in one topic
- Use different search terms and techniques to capture all the results
- How-to guides and FAQs for help



Q&A





The home of longitudinal research

Thank you

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- Longitudinal news
- Blog alerts
- Twitter highlights
- In the Loop



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