

Chapter 3 Research Methods

Topic 7 Secondary sources

Answers to QuickCheck Questions on page 155

1. Because they are information that other people (non-sociologists) have already created or gathered for their own (non-sociological) purposes.
2. Registration: the statistics are created from official registers of events, e.g. births, deaths; official. Surveys: the statistics are created from government surveys such as the Census.
3. They allow comparisons between groups/societies. They can be used to identify trends and patterns over time. They can be used in 'before and after' studies to show cause-and-effect relationships.
4. Hard statistics: the number of births, deaths, marriages or divorces. Soft statistics: police crime statistics: statistics on racist incidents in schools.
5. Because not all crimes are reported to or recorded by the police.
6. Any two of the following: letters, diaries, photo albums, autobiographies.
7. Letters; autobiographies; included newspaper articles; court and social work records.
8. Authenticity; credibility; representativeness; meaning.