

**TEACHING GERIATRIC RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES: EMERGING SECONDARY DATA
RESOURCES FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION**

J.W. McNally

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

The availability and application of secondary data for research and classroom instruction in geriatric research has grown tremendously in recent years. With the rise of the Internet and other electronic means of distribution the costs of sharing data and information have declined dramatically; changing secondary data from a commodity to a public good to be shared in a manner enhances our ability to engage in cross-national research. While the costs of sharing data have declined across time, the costs associated with collaboration and cross organization research and training remain high. Inefficiencies in collaborative research and training programs include the costs of travel, replication of effort, incompatible analysis platforms and the inability to replicate findings between collaborative partners. Researchers at the NACAD Program on Aging at ICPSR which is based in the University of Michigan in the United States have developed a set of web-based analysis and educational tools that allow for more efficient use of secondary data across research communities regardless of physical distance. These tools allow researchers to access, subset and analyze data regardless of their physical location, the only requirement is an internet connection. The systems are freely available to all members of the research community worldwide and exist to encourage teaching and the collaboration of researchers across disciplinary and national boundaries. The presentation will present applications of these tools for teaching geriatric research methodology in the classroom as well as potential applications for on-line education, long distance teaching and short courses on emerging issues in geriatric research.