Exercises

# Chapter 15: Developing data analysis

## Exercise 1: Brainstorm sources of existing secondary data

This gives you the opportunity to think about relevant datasets to which you may have early access.

1. Review relevant data already in the public sphere, for instance on the media (from newspapers to television and radio to the Internet). Select a dataset and begin to analyse it (you may use the datasets provided online in this book).

2. Ask your supervisor and/or fellow students about any relevant data that they might have which you could borrow either as a preliminary exercise or possibly to develop long-term collaboration. Do a brief analysis of some of the data.

## Exercise 2: Ask questions of your own data right after obtaining it

This gives you an opportunity to analyse your own data as soon as you obtain it.

1. Which questions does your preferred method of data analysis suggest? What interesting generalizations can you start to pull out of your data?

2. Do previous research findings seem to apply to your data? If not, why? If so, how can you use your data to develop these findings?

3. How do particular concepts from your preferred model of social research apply to your data? Which concepts work best and hence look likely to be most productive?