

Sample coordination methods and systems for establishment surveys

Invited introductory overview lecture

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Abstract

Sample coordination has been a topic of interest in the world of establishment surveys, from well before the first International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-I), where Ohlsson (1995) summarised the state of the art of methods using permanent random numbers (PRNs). A range of procedures have been proposed in the literature for sample coordination (divided into PRN and non-PRN methods), and these have given rise to several implementations in different countries. The national statistical offices of different countries currently use so-called ‘sample coordination systems.’ ‘Sample coordination methods’ and ‘sample coordination systems’ represent, in our opinion, two different concepts. The existing literature does not distinguish between them. Moreover, a definition of a sample coordination system has not yet been provided, while the term is widely used. First, we review the main existing methods for sample coordination, and highlight their strengths and weaknesses. Next, we enumerate the components of a coordination system and review some of those currently being used in different countries. Finally, we underline the differences and connections between ‘sample coordination methods’ and ‘sample coordination systems’.

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