

DESCRIPTIVE METADATA

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Title of dataset: Utility ratings of ecological concepts by members of the Ecological Society of America

Subtitle of dataset: ESA member ratings of ecological concepts

Subjects/keywords: ecological concept, Ecological Society of America, membership survey, concept utility, normative concept set, conceptual thematic categories, science education, heuristic toolkit, intellectual framework, scales and scaling, ecology textbooks, classification of preferred sets, ordination of preferred sets

Date data available: YYYYMMDD

Date data collected: Data are derived from a survey which started on 20141022 and terminated on 2014115.

Description: Data are from an on-line survey addressed to all members of the Ecological Society of America. Two types of data comprise this set. The bulk of the data is ratings of the utility of 131 ecological concepts by 1,324 respondents (131 columns x 1,324 rows). The specific question by which respondents rated concepts was: "Which concepts are useful to your research capability and intellectual interests in your daily work-life."

The remainder is free responses by many of the respondents with regard to ecological concepts useful to them that were not encountered in the survey (5 columns x 1,324 rows).

Geolocation: The survey was conducted via a Qualtrics platform located in The Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) located at 406 S. 21st Street, Laramie, WY 82071 (41° 18' 30.03" N, 105° 34' 04.45" W).

README FILE

1. Title of Dataset
Utility ratings of ecological concepts by members of the Ecological Society of America
2. Author Information

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3. Date of data collection:

Data are derived from a survey which started on 20141022 and terminated on 20141115.

4. Geographic location of data collection (where was data collected?):

Laramie, WY 82071 USA. Latitude: 41.31137° Longitude: 105.5911° WGS 84

5. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:

Personally funded by investigators

6. Data structure

A header row gives the names of the 131 concepts for the first 131 columns; the header row denotes five opportunities for respondents to offer apparently missing concepts in the last five columns.

Some cells in the first 131 columns below the header row are empty as individual respondents were exposed to only 70 out of the entire 131 concepts to reduce effects of respondent fatigue. Some cells in the last five columns are empty because respondents did not care to offer other concepts, or offered fewer than the maximum of five.

Cells in the first 131 columns (B-EB) are populated by single integers ranging from 1 to 6. The lowest rating for utility is 1, the highest is 5. A score of 6 indicates the respondent was not familiar with the concept.