

Paradata

To make sense of data and use it effectively, it is essential to know where it comes from and how it has been processed and used. This is the domain of paradata, an emerging interdisciplinary field with wide applications. As digital data rapidly accumulates in repositories worldwide, this comprehensive introductory book, the first of its kind, shows how to make that data accessible and reusable.

In addition to covering basic concepts of paradata, the book supports practice with coverage of methods for generating, documenting, identifying and managing paradata, including formal metadata, narrative descriptions and qualitative and quantitative backtracking. The book also develops a unifying reference model to help readers contextualise the role of paradata within a wider system of knowledge, practices and processes, and provides a vision for the future of the field.

This guide to general principles and practice is ideal for researchers, students and data managers.

This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

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‘The book *Paradata: Documenting Data Creation, Curation and Use* is a remarkable contribution to the field, offering deep insights into the complex practices and processes behind data documentation. By exploring the multifaceted nature of paradata, the book emphasizes its crucial role in ensuring the clarity, reuse and long-term value of research data. The interdisciplinary approach, drawing from archaeology and information science, presents a comprehensive framework for understanding and managing paradata, making it an essential resource for researchers and practitioners alike. Paradata is something that we all need to embrace and understand in our data-driven world, and this book is a wonderful compilation, offering insights and invaluable context. Congratulations to the chief editor, advisory board members, all those who gave feedback, and the contributing authors.’

— Jane Greenberg, *Drexel University*

‘Huvila and his colleagues provide a much needed and timely analysis of “paradata”. Paradata help us to understand the processes by which data are conceptualised and made, and those processes are never neutral or innocent. Understanding these processes is crucial for the effective management, storage and re-use of data.’

— Sally Wyatt, *Maastricht University, The Netherlands*

‘If you are looking for an understandable and thorough discussion of how data is created and curated, *Paradata* is for you. Both a summation of the European Research Council-funded CAPTURE research project and a primer on the concept and complexities of what makes up paradata – including data creation, curation and use – this book is of interest to a wide audience of information professionals or everyone who works with research data in any stage.’

— Carol Tenopir, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville (Emerita)*

‘This insightful volume introduces the concept of paradata: documentation of the circumstances in which data is made, managed and used. Huvila and co-authors integrate comprehensive literature synthesis with robust empirical findings to produce an accessibly written, thought-provoking book. Scholars, practitioners and students of data practices, data management and data policy will find this book to be a rich and helpful resource.’

— Melanie Feinberg, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

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Documenting Data Creation, Curation and Use

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