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The manual gives instructions on how to create datasets that Origin has integrated with – NeSS and iShare. It is assumed that the dataset management process is understood, this process is detailed in the Data Manager manual in section 3. This manual can be downloaded from:

<http://www.localinformationsystems.co.uk/manuals.aspx>

1. NeSS Datasets

1.1 Overview

The Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS) Datastore contains social and economic statistics from the 2001 census as well as information from a variety of other sources. The NeSS Data Exchange has been utilised to enable this information to be easily imported into Origin. For further details on NeSS please visit:

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

1.2 NeSS Datasets

1.2.1 Creating a NeSS Dataset

A NeSS Dataset is similar to a regular dataset except for a few additional options that have been made available. To create a NeSS dataset, create a dataset as normal and select “National Statistics Exchange” as the type under “Dataset Meta Information” in the “MetaData” tab. Note to enable a NeSS dataset, the dataset must not contain any existing variables or data.

Once the NeSS type has been selected, the NeSS settings panel will be displayed. An example of this panel is shown in figure 1.1.

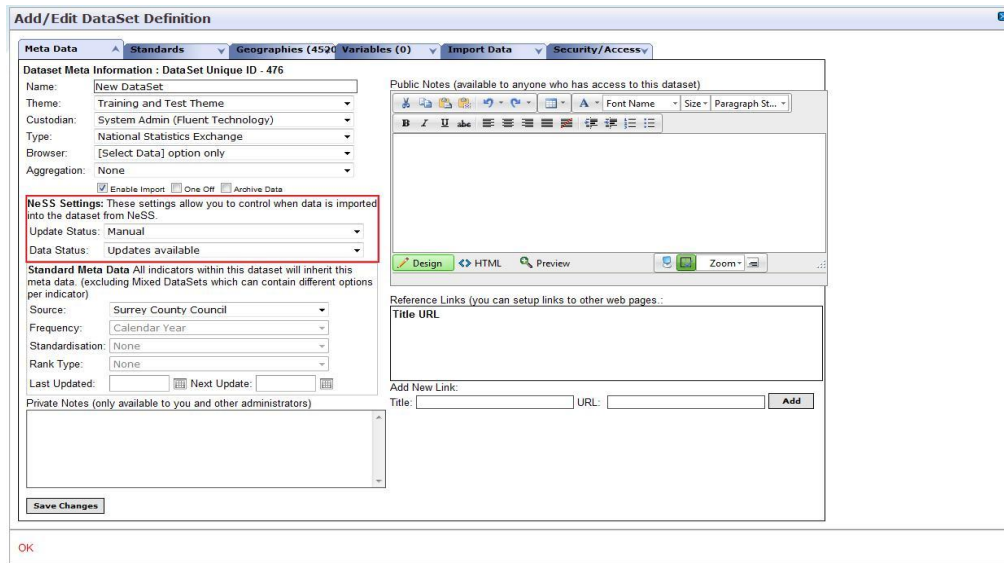


Figure 1.1.
The NeSS settings panel consists of two options, “Update Status” and “Data Status”. The “Update Status” dropdown has two options, automatic and manual. If set to automatic, data will automatically be imported into the dataset (the “Data Status” drop down will also be hidden). If set to manual, data will only be imported when scheduled by the dataset custodian.

The “Data Status” drop down has three options, “Update to date”, “Updates available” and “Scheduled”. The first two options indicate if the dataset is currently up to date or if new data has been made available. Setting the status to scheduled will allow any new data to be imported into the dataset.

1.2.2 Adding Variables

Once dataset type has been selected as “National Statistics Exchange” and saved, variables can then be added.

Variables are added in the standard manner but two additional NeSS specific options are available as shown in figure 1.2.

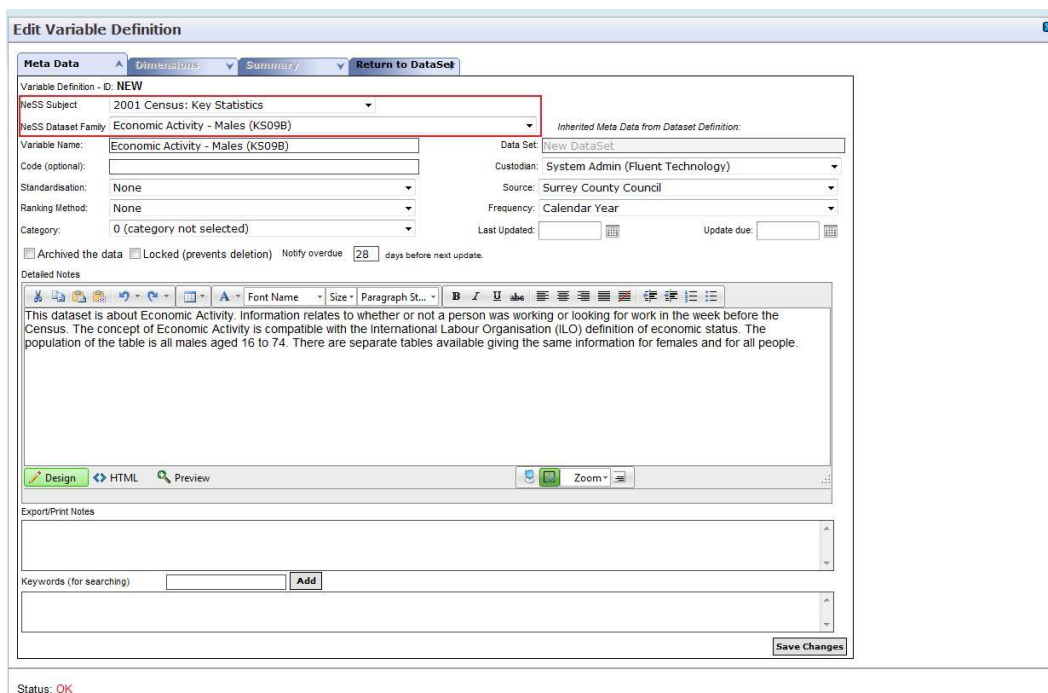


Figure 1.2

The two additional drop down menus are “NeSS Subject” and “NeSS Dataset Family”, these are used to determine what dimensions will be available within the dataset definition.

An overview of the structure of the NeSS data is given in section 2.

The selection of a subject determines what items will be available in the dataset family dropdown, once a dataset family selection has been made the variable name is automatically set to the dataset family name (this can be changed if required), metadata available for the dataset family is also placed in the detailed notes (this can also be changed if required).

The remaining metadata can be set as normal with the exception of frequency which will be automatically set to match the frequency of the dataset family when the metadata is saved.

Upon saving the metadata for the first time a popup window will appear as shown in figure 1.3.

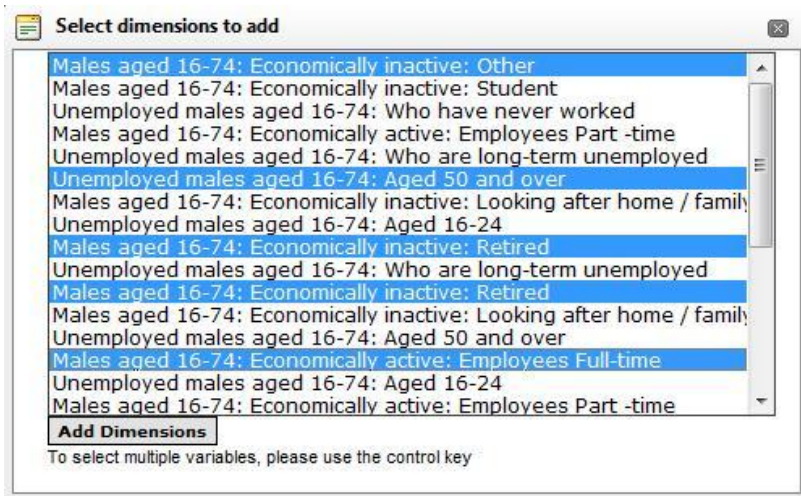


Figure 1.3.

The popup window will display a list of all available dimensions within the selected dataset family. To add dimensions select the required dimensions from the list (holding control to make multiple selections) and click “Add Dimensions”, these dimensions will then be automatically added.

Dimensions can be added/updated as normal with the exception that the dimension name textbox has been replaced with a drop down menu showing the available dimensions from the list above.

1.2.3 Importing Data

The configuration options in the “Import Data” tab have been removed with the exception of the batch grid which is visible if data has been imported into the dataset.

Data is imported into NeSS datasets via a nightly service, this nightly service will import data for variables that currently do not have any data and will check for any updates for existing variables. Data will only be imported for datasets that have been set to automatic or manual with the “Data status” set to scheduled.

Imported data will be listed in batches under the “Import config” tab.

After the data import process is completed, manual datasets that were not scheduled are then checked against the NeSS datastore to see if there has been any changes since the last updated date (of the variable definition), if updated data is available then the “Data status” marked as “Updates available”.

1.2.4 Updated data alert

A new alert message has been added in “Data Task” under “Your tasks” on the homepage. This message will show if any manually updated NeSS datasets have new data available. Clicking the link will display a list of these datasets as shown in figure 1.4.

| Source Datasets | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Drag a column header here to group by that column | | | | | | | |
| DataSet | Frequency | Custodian | Last Updated | Next Update | Update Type | Data Status | |
| NESS - Economy Activity | Census (10 years) | System Admin | 01/07/2010 | 14/06/2020 | Manual | Scheduled | Edit Dataset Cancel Update |
| NESS - Health | Census (10 years) | System Admin | 03/06/2010 | 03/06/2020 | Manual | Updates available | Edit Dataset Schedule Update |

Export List to PDF Export List to XLS Export List to RTF Export List to CSV

Figure 1.4.

A dataset can be edited by clicking the “Edit Dataset” link. To schedule a dataset update click the “Schedule Update” link or “Cancel Update” to cancel a pending update.

1.2.5 Aggregation and region types

Data within NeSS is structured into a series of geographical hierarchies, depending on the region types within a dataset all the region types may not fall into the same hierarchy. In cases such as these the import service attempts to retrieve data for as many region types as possible (it will attempt to import data from multiple NeSS hierarchies if possible). Not all region types exist within NeSS

If data cannot be retrieved for a specific region type, aggregation can be used to complete any gaps assuming an aggregation path exists. For example, neighbourhoods do not exist within NeSS but output areas and lower super output areas are available. If aggregation on the dataset is set at LSOA or OA, data for these levels will be retrieved from NeSS and aggregated to neighboured level. This process will not be possible in all cases as data may not be available for the level being aggregated.

Note the regions being aggregated are not required within the datasets geography collection, any data collected for these regions will not be saved after the import process is complete.

2. NeSS Data Overview

2.1. Structure

NeSS is structured into three tiers, Subjects, Dataset families and variables. At the time of writing (July 2010) there are 15 Subjects, 258 Dataset families and 4873 variables. An example of this structure can be seen in figure 2.1.

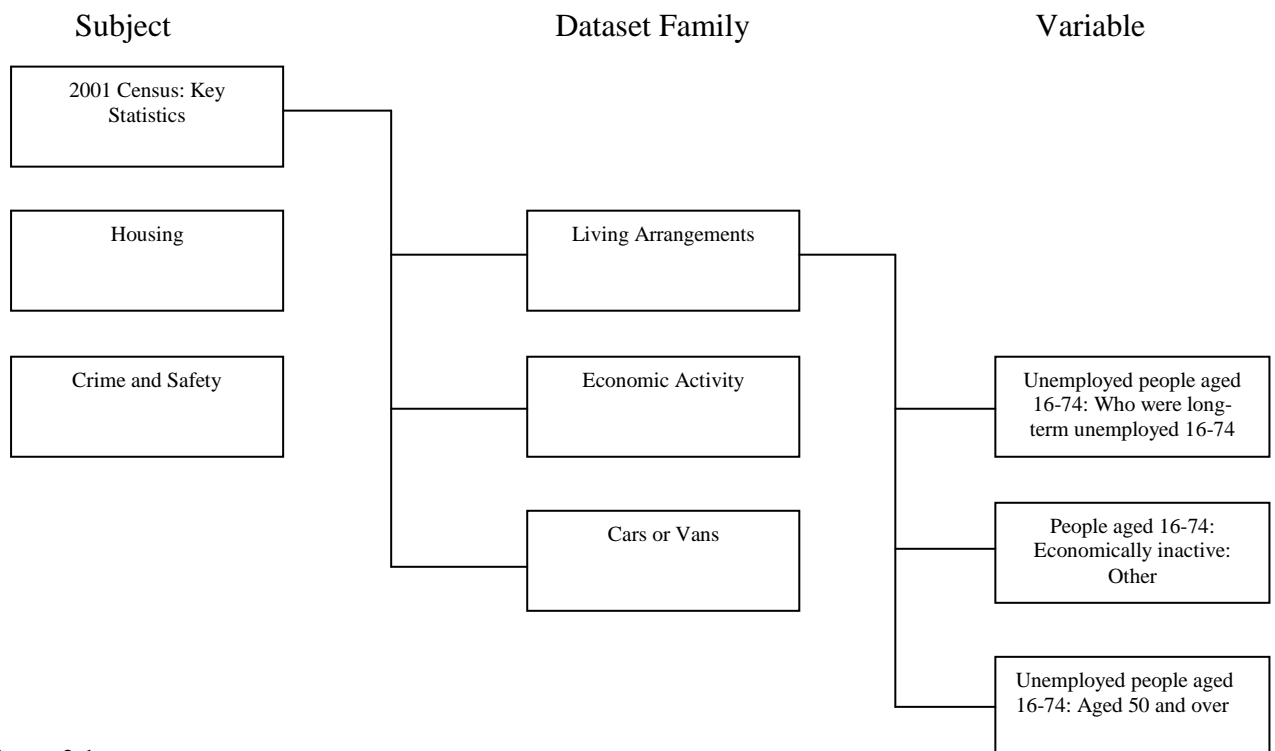


Figure 2.1

As shown above each subject can have multiple dataset families which in turn can have multiple variables. These records along with appropriate metadata is stored in Origin, this data is automatically updated using a nightly service.

The following are examples of a record at each level:

Subject - 2001 Census Key Statistics

- SubjectID: 15
- Name: 2001 Census: Key Statistics
- Description: Key Statistics cover all main census topics, presented as counts and percentages in a limited number of simple tables
- OptionalMetaData: Tables from the 2001 Key Statistics series.

Dataset Family - Living Arrangements

- DatasetFamilyID: 7
- Name: Living Arrangements (KSO3)
- Sources: Office of National Statistics
- OptionalMetaData: This dataset is about Living Arrangements. It shows all people aged 16 and over in households, by their living arrangements. For example, whether they are living as part of a cohabiting couple, or are not living in a couple and are single or divorced.
- MandatoryMetaData:
- Date Range: 2001/04/29 – 2001/04/29
- LatestCoverage: England and Wales
- LastUpdatedDate: 2004-11-09
- Periodicity: 51 (Date – this is usually means census)(Other examples – monthly, quarterly etc)

Variable - Unemployed people aged 16-74: Who were long-term unemployed 16-74

- VariableID: 2369
- Name: Unemployed people aged 16-74: Who are long-term unemployed
- StatisticsalUnit 1 (Persons)
- MeasurementUnit: 2 (Percentage)
- OptionalMetaData: All people aged 16 to 74 and usually resident in the area at the time of the 2001 Census who were long-term unemployed. 'Long-term unemployed' are those who stated (at the time of the 2001 Census) they had not worked since 1999 or earlier. When viewed as a percentage this variable is the percentage of people who are long-term unemployed of 'Unemployed people aged 16 to 74' rather than 'All people'.
- Periodicity: 51 (Date)
- Date Range: 2001/04/29 – 2001/04/29 (There can be multiple date ranges per variable)

3. Step by Step

3.1 Setting up a NeSS dataset

This section assumes familiarity with the dataset setup process.

1. Create a dataset in the normal manner.
2. Select “National Statistics Exchange” as the type under the dataset meta information.
3. Complete the metadata as appropriate.
4. Select the appropriate update status, if you want data to automatically be imported into the dataset choose automatic or manual if you want to manually control when data is imported.
5. If manual is chosen, set the data status to scheduled to allow data to be imported.
6. Save the dataset.
7. Click on the variables tab.
8. Select insert new row.
9. Select the appropriate NeSS subject from the drop down list, this will show the NeSS dataset family drop down.
10. Select the appropriate dataset family, the variable name and detailed notes will automatically be populated with some metadata.
11. Complete the remaining metadata as normal.
12. Save the metadata.
13. A popup window will appear listing available dimensions.
14. Select the required dimensions from the list, using the control key to make multiple selections.
15. Click Add dimensions
16. Repeat steps 8-15 as necessary

3.2 Add dimensions to an existing definition

1. Edit the appropriate definition.
2. Click the dimensions tab.
3. Click add new row.
4. Select the required dimension from the drop down.
5. Click the tick icon to save.

4. iShare Datasets

4.1 Overview

The iShare platform allows data integration with your existing data sources and makes that data available within Origin. The section assumes that the necessary configuration and data pivoting has been completed within iShare.

The Origin iShare module acts in a similar manner to NeSS, a service collects the meta data of the available data within iShare and stores it within Origin. This meta data can then be used to create a dataset. Another service then pulls the data into Origin.

Both these services run automatically so do not require user configuration.

4.2 Creating

An iShare dataset is created in the same way as a NeSS dataset, setting the dataset “Type” under “Dataset Meta Information” will enable the iShare options. The additional data import settings which allow you to set how often the data is updated are then enabled. The rest of the meta data tab is the same as a regular dataset.

If the dataset contains regions larger than output area the aggregation should be set to “From OA up”.

The “Standards”, “Geographies” and “Security” tabs are the same as those in a regular dataset and can be configured as required. The “Import Data” lists batches only (when data is imported), as data is automatically imported, the options to upload via spreadsheet are not available.

4.3 Adding Variables

The structure of iShare data is as follows:

- Source
- Topic (Variable Definition)
- Pivot (Dimension)

An example of data in this structure could be:

- Source: Fire Data
- Topic: Fires caused by electrical appliances
- Pivot: Caused by overheating or All incidents

When creating a variable two additional drop downs have been added, the first “Source” contains a list of all available sources. The second is “Topic” which contains a list of all topics that fall under a selected topic. Both drop downs must be completed in order to add the variable.

Once the topic has been selected some fields such as the “Variable Name” and “Detailed Notes” are automatically populated. These can be changed if required and the remainder of the meta data can be completed as required.

One important thing to note is the frequency that appears with the topic name in the “Topic” drop down. The iShare-Origin integration allows greater flexibility in frequency types when compared with NeSS. The frequency type is not automatically set for you so some care is required. **In the vast majority of cases the frequency type should be less than or equal to the frequency listed in the “Topic”.** For example, if the topic lists “Month” then a frequency type of Monthly, Quarterly Calendar year would be acceptable however weekly would not.

If the selected frequency type is smaller than the “Topic” frequency data will still be imported but it will most likely be listed under the last time dimension for the frequency. For example if the frequency was monthly but the “Topic” was year then the data for the year will most likely be imported under December.

It is possible to have dimensions with topics of differing frequency, as long as the frequency type is set to the largest “Topic” frequency. For example variable 1 could have a “Topic” which is month and variable 2 could have a “Topic” with frequency year as long as the frequency type is set to calendar year for example.

4.4 Adding Dimensions

When a variable definition is saved and no dimensions have been added a popup will be displayed, the dimensions can then be selected from this and they will be automatically added – as is done with NeSS. Dimensions can also be added in the same manner as a standard dataset with the dimension being picked from a drop down list.