Use of alternative data sources in Canadian SPPIs

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Operational Model

- **Unstructured Data from websites, catalogues, etc.**
- **Structured Data from other departments or organisations**
- **Structured Data from other Statistics Canada programs**

Electronic Questionnaire
Custom Adapter to load structured information

Alternative Data Registry
Alternative Data Repository

Generalized Processing System

New Lending Services Price Index

- **New Lending Data**
  - Bank of Canada
- **Market Rates**
  - CANSIM Table 176-0043
- **Implicit Price Index for Domestic Expenditure**
  - CANSIM Table 380-0065

- Annual percentage rates
- Funds advanced
- By loan product and maturity

Data Capture

Example 1

Example 2

Freight Rail Services Price Index

- **Base rates**
  - Carrier website
- **Distance**
  - Third-party software
- **Exchange rates**
  - CANSIM Table 176-0064

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Subject Matter**
  - Identify, evaluate and implement
- **Information Management**
  - Manage agreements, ensure legal and policy obligations are met

The Future of Alternative Data Sources

- Seeking new sources
- Establishing collaborative working arrangements
- Improving techniques and systems
- Controlling costs, minimizing response burden

List prices on the Internet

- Public disclosure of micro data not collected under the Statistics Act
- Prescribed as collection activity by Chief Statistician under the Statistics Act

Prices impacted by page views

- Consensual minimal impact web scraping

Overburden of page views crashes website

- Negotiated contracts with multi-year renewals

Public perception of intrusive collection

- Document use of admin data on website
- Agreements that meet legal requirements and policies

Data files from third parties in private sector

- Supply interruptions
- Negotiated contracts with multi-year renewals

Cost of data

- Change in data source creates a break in the index

- Loss of public trust
- Agreements that meet legal requirements and policies

Data from other government departments or regulators

- Discontinued collection by regulator
- Agreements include provisions for discontinuation of data

Other surveys

- Lack of granularity needed for prices
- Include new variables to existing surveys

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