

A tool for creating and administering interactive surveys

Studies often require subjects to complete questionnaires at multiple time points. These questionnaires can be long and complex, making them difficult to design and administer, especially for studies occurring at multiple sites. To alleviate the burdens of researchers and subjects alike, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center has developed Questionnaire Builder, a web-based application that enables researchers to easily generate, administer and analyze questionnaires. Questionnaire Builder can be used to generate simple, plain-text surveys or interactive sessions involving multi-media. Integration with Cincinnati Children's Study Tracking System as well as functionality to export data to third-party statistical analysis software gives researchers maximum control over their data collection and analysis.

Administer questionnaires online or offline

All questionnaires generated by Questionnaire Builder can be administered over the World Wide Web, enabling investigators to easily interact with subjects at remote locations. In turn, subjects can fully participate from the comfort of their own homes, eliminating demands for travel, which may be impossible for some subjects, and minimizing the need for inconvenient home visits. For subjects or sites without Web access, an offline module is available that enables you to temporarily store responses on a local hard drive and upload them later to the central database.

Add images, hypertext and streaming media

Questionnaire Builder goes beyond plain-text questionnaires by enabling you to insert images, HTML files and video clips. This functionality can be used in many ways. For example, you might begin each major section of the questionnaire with an instructional movie clip. Or you might present subjects with an image and ask questions based on it. You also can use streaming video to turn Questionnaire Builder into a live video conference or counseling session - for example, between a therapist at a health care facility and family members in their home.

Incorporate skip logic and repeat conditions

The system enables you to set up blocks of questions and repeat them - for example, for each response to a multiple-answer question. By using "skip logic," you also can configure the system to pose different questions based on a subject's responses. As illustrated in the example on the right, you might ask a subject if he or she exercises. If the subject answers yes, the system would automatically ask one or more follow-up questions. If the subject answers no, the system would bypass the follow-up questions and ask the next question in the main sequence.

Select from a variety of question formats

You can choose from 13 different multiple-choice and open-ended question formats. In addition, you can insert an unlimited number of questions. This flexibility enables you to vary questionnaire size and depth depending on your audience and needs.

Link with STS and statistical analysis programs

You can quickly and easily transfer completed questionnaires to statistical analysis packages such as SAS and SPSS for further study and interpretation. In addition, the system is fully integrated with the Study Tracking System (STS), enabling you to assign specific questionnaires to appointments as required tasks and to track their completion.

Preview and reuse questionnaires

Before administering them to subjects, you can preview and test your questionnaires, making modifications as necessary. Inactive questionnaires remain in the database so that they can be reused in part or in full in future questionnaires, saving you the time of rewriting and retesting common blocks of questions.

