Data Capture

- RedCap
- Qualtrics

REDCap and Qualtrics are two of the data-gathering options available. They both have strengths and weaknesses, and there is often confusion as to the proper time to use them. REDCap is directed more toward research data collection, with surveys as an additional option, whereas Qualtrics is focusing on surveys.

Similarities

- Both provide a GUI interface for designing survey-based data collection instruments.
- Both provide the ability for branching logic based on previous answers to questions.
- Both provide the ability to have anonymous users respond to surveys.
- Both can export data to popular statistics analysis software packages.
- Both provide some ability to share and collaborate with other users of the system.
- Both provide some ability to view graphs and charts of user responses to surveys.
- Both provide a certain number of pre-built forms to use as starting points for your project.
- Both use data encryption to protect the data as it is transmitted and stored.

REDCap Unique Features

- REDCap’s primary data capture method is direct input from researchers and collaborators, in addition to surveys.
- Data collection instruments are designed using the same GUI interface as surveys.
- Multiple forms can be linked to a single participant, linked by a common participant ID.
- Many sophisticated data entry and manipulation features.
- Calendar/Scheduling
- CSV Data Import/Export
- Record Locking
- Data Comparison Tools
- Data Quality Checks
- API Access
- Double Data Entry
- Full logging of all actions taken in each project
- File Repository for storage of study-related documents

Qualtrics Unique Features

- “Panels”, allowing repeated survey distribution and tracking to a focus group of users.
- More built-in social media sharing functions.
- The survey-building GUI is a little more robust, with several question types not available in REDCap.
- Accessibility checker verifies that responses can be entered with assistive technologies.