****

**Data Collection Strategies for Repeating Surveys**

Collecting survey data in a repeating fashion can be done efficiently and with minimal setup by using a repeating survey, which is a survey that is enabled as a repeating instrument or (if a longitudinal project) a survey instrument utilized on a repeating event. However, it can sometimes be difficult to know which features to use with repeating surveys to collect repetitive survey data most effectively. The information below presents multiple data collection options for repeating surveys. Each option has its own pros and cons that should be weighed carefully based on your situation. It is important to point out that the options below are not mutually exclusive and can be used in combination together for multiple surveys within a project.

**Different ways to collect data for a repeating survey:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **"Repeat the survey" buttonat end of survey** | **Automated Survey Invitations (ASIs)** | **Alerts & Notifications** |
| Description | Utilize the "Repeat the survey" button that can be enabled to appear at the end of the survey to allow participants to keep adding new repeating instances over and over again for the survey. | Utilize an Automated Survey Invitation that will be repeatedly sent at a recurring interval. | Utilize an alert that will be repeatedly sent at a recurring interval, in which the alert will contain a specially-formatted survey link for the repeating survey. |
| Activation process and usage | Enable the "Repeat the survey" option on the Survey Settings page, and participants will be able to enter multiple instances' worth of data in a back-to-back fashion (i.e., in one sitting), in which the "Repeat the survey" button will be displayed at the end of the survey. Additionally, if you are utilizing the Survey Queue feature, and the participant has been given their survey queue link, they will be able to enter new repeating survey instances whenever they wish on the survey queue page. | Click the 'Automated Invitations' button for the repeating survey in the Online Designer, and then fill out the 'How many times to send it' section in the ASI popup to designate how often and how many times the invitations should be repeated. | Create an alert on the Alerts & Notifications page, and then fill out the 'Send it how many times?' section in the alert popup to designate how often and how many times the notifications should be repeated. The message of the alert must contain the Smart Variable [survey-link] and \*MUST\* be appended with [new-instance]. For example, if the unique instrument name of your repeating survey is "daily\_survey", then you would use [survey-link:daily\_survey][new-instance]. This will create a survey link in the alert that will always point to a new, not-yet-created instance of the repeating survey. |
| Does it work with repeating instruments and/or repeating events? | Repeating instruments only | Both (repeating instruments and instruments on repeating events) | Both (repeating instruments and instruments on repeating events) |
| Common uses | Surveys where some information must be entered multiple times, such as filling out questions about multiple family members or entering medication information for multiple meds. | Surveys where the participant is emailed at a regular interval, such as with a daily, weekly, or monthly survey. For example, a COVID-19 daily symptom-tracking survey. | Surveys where the participant is emailed at a regular interval, such as with a daily, weekly, or monthly survey. For example, a COVID-19 daily symptom-tracking survey. |
| Requires an email to be sent? | No. Emailing is not required. However, if you are utilizing the Survey Queue, you may optionally need to send the participant their survey queue link using a recurring alert, in which the survey queue will be the landing page for the participant before they enter the survey each time. | Yes (unless using SMS and voice calls) | Yes (unless using SMS and voice calls) |
| Works with SMS and Voice Calls? | No, this works with the web interface only. | Yes, SMS and voice calls can both be used for sending out the survey link for an ASI. | Yes, SMS and voice calls can both be used for sending out the survey link for an alert. |