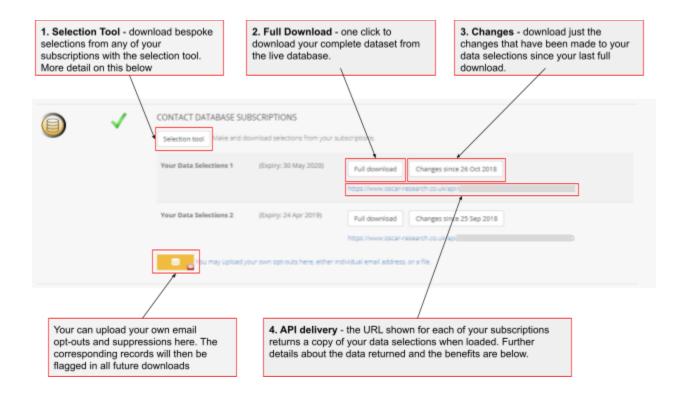# OSCAR

Data Subscription Access and Delivery

There are 4 options for accessing the data you are subscribed to. These are all included with your database subscription without cost and are designed to make it simple and efficient to consume the latest data from our live database. Improving the quality and effectiveness of the data you have available, maximising the value of our research work and helping to ensure data compliance by reflecting permission changes more quickly.

The best method will depend on whether you are maintaining a copy of your selections within your own database, or if you wish to download and use the data 'on demand'. In all instances the data is returned as a CSV file and the standard field list can be seen at -
https://www.oscar-research.co.uk/databases/structure

1. Selection Tool - This takes you to the online Oscar selection tool, where you build a set of specific selections across your database subscription by type of organisation, job function and region and then download the live results.

2. Full Download - This returns the latest complete copy of your data in Excel from the live database.

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3. Changes Since - Provides all records within your data subscription that have been changed since your last full download. Data is provided in Excel format and the changes are categorised in the last field of the download as being either:

'New' - they didn't exist in the last file
'Changed' - an aspect of the record has changed since the last download or
'Deleted' - the postholder is no longer listed at that organisation.

4. API Delivery

Each contact database subscription is provided with a unique URL (web service endpoint) that contains a specific token (long string of numbers and letters) which when loaded ('called') authorises access to your specific subscription and provides a simple and secure means of receiving the latest data you have under license. Each time the endpoint is called, the latest version of the data is selected from our live database and returned in CSV format.

The structure of the data delivered can be seen here -
http://www.oscar-research.co.uk/databases/structure

Users can either use this method of delivery to more easily download their data selections - simply by loading the URL in their browser. Or completely automate their data workflow by scripting calls on the web service via their own database systems. These calls can be set at any frequency and rules can be added to control how data is added, changed and deleted. We're happy to discuss these processes with your development team if needed.

There are two options for how you may wish to use the web service to receive your data:

<u>1 - Receiving the latest full set of data within your subscription:</u>

This means you will receive the latest version of all the data contained within your subscription. To do this, simply use the URL given in your customer area against each contact database subscription (as seen in the screenshot above).

It should be noted here that records that have been deleted since your last download will not be present in the feed. Therefore if you are using this resource to maintain a parallel copy in your own system, any records that you hold that are not in the live feed should be treated as a **Deletion**. Records that have been changed or are new can be identified by two specific fields provided
'Date Changed'
'Date Added'.

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2 - Receiving only records that have changed since a certain date:

This option provides a much more efficient means of maintaining a copy of your database selections in your own system.

Once you have taken an initial complete copy of your data, you can then use the following method to just receive records that are new, have been changed in some way or have been deleted since a given date. Or to use a more technical description (nod to the 'devs' out there) using our REST API you can specify a DATE parameter via the HTTP call.

To do this you need to add a date to the endpoint, as follows:

https://www.oscar-research.co.uk/api/youruniquetoken**?since=20220101**

Breaking this down, you would use the unique URL and add the following to the end:

?since=YYYYMMDD (eg '20220101' as shown above for the 1st of January 2022)

It should be noted (as shown in the database structure page linked to above) this method of delivery provides the following additional fields:

ChangeDate - Date any aspect of the record was changed
DeleteDate - Date the record was deleted
CreateDate - Date the record was created
OrgDelete - Shows a date if the organisation linked to the postholder has been deleted
SiteDelete - Shows a date if the site linked to the postholder has also been deleted
Change - summary of the type of change since the date specified in the call

We would thoroughly recommend getting your technical team to script the calls and updates to your copies of Oscar data and for the updates to be made either daily or weekly.

Separately, we also have a guide for automating the loading and refreshing of Oscar Data within Google Sheets and Excel using the API delivery method. Please see - https://www.oscar-research.co.uk/databases/OscarDatatoSpreadsheets.pdf

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We can also provide a range of bespoke formats, feeds and data delivery solutions to suit your individual requirements. Please contact us if you'd like to discuss in more detail.