

ARDA Tutorial:

Locating Data Files on the ARDA

With data from so many surveys and polls, the ARDA data archive can seem overwhelming at first. In this tutorial, we'll examine several ways you can find just the dataset you're looking for.

- 1) Go to the ARDA homepage: www.theARDA.com.
- 2) Click on "Data Archive" towards the top of the page.

The screenshot shows the ARDA Data Archive website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The page title is "Surveys | The Association of Religion Data Archives - Windows Internet Explorer". The URL is "http://thearda.com/Archive/browse.asp". The page features a navigation menu with links for "Data Archive", "US Congr Mem", "Denominations", "QuickStats", "QuickLists", and "GIS Maps". A search bar is located at the top right. The main content area is titled "Data Archive" and includes a search bar and a "Go!" button. Below the search bar, there are tabs for "Browse by Category", "Browse Alphabetically", "Browse Most Popular", and "Browse Newest Additions". The main content area lists various categories of data files, including "International Surveys and Data", "U.S. Church Membership Data", "U.S. Surveys", "Surveys of the General Population", "Surveys of Denominations/Other Religious Groups", "Surveys of Congregations/Other Religious Organizations", and "Surveys of Members or Leaders". Annotations a-e are placed on the page: 'a' points to the "Browse by Category" tab; 'b' points to the "Data Archive" link in the navigation menu; 'c' points to the "Browse Alphabetically" tab; 'd' points to the "Browse Newest Additions" tab; and 'e' points to the search bar.

- a. The default method for finding a data file is by category. Locate the sub-heading that best matches the data file you're looking for and select it.
- b. If you already know the name of the data file you're looking for, click on the "Browse Alphabetically" tab, and then click on the letter corresponding to the first letter of the dataset.
- c. You can also browse through a list of the top ten most commonly downloaded datasets on our site.
- d. You can also view the last ten datasets that were added to the ARDA website.
- e. This search bar will allow you to search for keywords or phrases in every section of the ARDA website at once.

