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This document provides background information about efforts to make historical course data accessible to researchers, as well as FAQs for specific datasets. Click the hyperlinked text below to navigate directly to each section.

- Course Catalogs
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FAQs: MBA Course Catalogs

Q: *How was this dataset created?*

A: Data from the HBS course catalogs was transcribed into two spreadsheets: one for faculty information and one for course information.

- Faculty information was transcribed from faculty lists in each course catalog which contain faculty names, titles, and degrees. The academic year of the course catalog was also included.
- Course information was transcribed from course descriptions in course catalogs. The academic years were also included. Course descriptions contain any or all of the following information: course name, semester, curriculum (first-year or second year), instructor(s), and course description.

Q: *What is the time period for this dataset?*

A: The time period reflects the course catalogs that have been digitized: Academic years 1908-1909 through 1933-1934 and 1935-1936 through 1973-1974. Note: The 1934-1935 course catalog has not been digitized and therefore is not included in the dataset.

Q: *What information is and is not contained in this dataset?*

A: The dataset includes instructor and course information, specifically:

- The time period a specific instructor taught at HBS
- Which courses an instructor taught and when
- When a course was offered
- Descriptions of specific courses

The dataset does not include:

- The 1934-1935 course catalog is absent from the digitized collection, so it has not been transcribed.

- Information about the cases used in courses (see “Course Outlines” for this information)
- (There are course outlines for the 1934-1935 academic year, so all information about courses, instructors, and cases for this year is limited to what is available in the course outlines.)

Q: *How do I view pages in the course catalog?*

A: Clicking the permalink in the dataset will take you to the page of the course catalog where a particular course description is located. From there, you can navigate to other pages of the same course catalog. Alternatively, you can view course catalogs starting from the listview of the complete course catalog collection, which is accessible from the Digital HBS Resources webpage.

FAQ: Datasets

Q: *I need help understanding what information is transcribed into these fields.*

A: The dictionary contains useful information about transcribed information.

Q: *What can be learned from viewing these spreadsheets?*

A: All columns can be filtered and sorted. Here are a few examples:

- Filter by course name to learn who taught a particular course and when they taught it.
- Filter by course name to see how its description changed over time.
- If you follow the persistent link, you will go to the specific page in the course catalogs.

Q: *Will the datasets be expanded?*

A: Not now; perhaps in the future if additional data sources are found.