Author's response to reviews

Title: Technical challenges of providing record linkage services for research

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Dear Editors,

As record linkage becomes more common, there is a move away from re-linking the same datasets again and again, to maintaining an ongoing linkage map for use in all research projects. This approach brings with it significant additional complexity that has not yet been addressed in the literature.

This paper aims to outline some of these complexities and present solutions to them. This paper would be of vital interest to any organisation developing a linkage unit.

A previous version of this paper presented some of these solutions with examples from a software package developed by our organisation. This resulted in a request for this software to be made available to reviewers, and a request for this software to be made freely available.

This software package was never intended to be the focus of this paper. In this revision, we have simply removed all references to a software package from the paper. We believe the revisions carried out result in a more focused paper with a clearer message.

We look forward to your comments,

Kind Regards,

Sean Randall & team