This paper evaluates character based (name and address) linking algorithms from two alternative software packages SAS and AUTOMATCH. Their performance is evaluated in a set of experiments that link establishments from the 1987 SSEL to the 1992 SSEL. To facilitate the computation of error match rates I focus on a narrow industry subset of all establishments in the SSEL; the Auto Repair Shop Industry (SIC 753). The analysis shows that the algorithms tested generate a substantial number of links that would otherwise be missed using only numerical linking procedures. Error match rates are comparable across software packages. Match rates for reorganizing establishments are slightly higher with AUTOMATCH.

Relevant Datasets: LBD

Required Dataset Permissions: 1987 & 1992 SSEL

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