

Study Questions for Atchison's "Navigating the Virtual Minefield: Using the Internet as a Medium for Conducting Primary Social Research"

1. Atchison's (1999) article is in part informative, but is also in part a piece of history, giving us a glimpse of what the internet looked like in 1999. Look at the description of the internet and its components that he gives in the first two pages. How has the internet **changed** since that time? Asked another way, what ways that you now use the internet do not appear in his description?
2. What are some of the qualitative research **methods** that Atchison indicates have been used in internet-based research?
3. Use a full sheet of paper to create a larger version of the table below and fill it in by listing the **advantages** and **disadvantages** associated with **sampling, observation and data collection, and data processing and analysis** when doing internet-based research.

	Sampling	Observation and Data Collection	Data Processing and Analysis
Advantages			
Disadvantages			

4. What is "**netiquette**" and why should a researcher be concerned about it?
5. What **unique confidentiality considerations** arise when doing research on the internet? What does Atchison suggest researchers should do to ensure confidentiality can best be maintained?