

REDCap Terminology

Arms: groups of events. You may want to employ multiple arms when using different treatment groups (control, experimental) or conducting a multi-site study, for instance.

Branching Logic: may be employed when fields/questions need to be hidden for data entry under certain conditions. For instance, you may want to hide the question “How many hours per week do you watch TV?” until a “Yes” answer is checked for a previous question, “Do you watch TV?”

Data Access Groups (DAGs): restrict viewing of data within a database, for instance in a double-blind or multi-site study.

Data Collection Instrument: a form created to capture data. This term is essentially interchangeable with “data entry form.”

Data Dictionary: a specifically formatted .csv spreadsheet containing the metadata used to construct data collection instruments and fields.

“Development” vs. “Production” Modes: study status modes. In Development Mode, you are still working through the design of your data forms and testing them with mock data; you may make any changes to the forms at any time. In Production Mode, you have deployed your forms and you are collecting real data; changes to your forms are more difficult to implement once you have launched into Production Mode.

Event: used in longitudinal designs. An event is a scheduled (or unscheduled) occurrence during which data is captured using your REDCap data instruments (forms).

Field: a singular data entry, such as age or height.

Form Status: status of the record’s data form completeness, denoted with a color; red – incomplete; yellow – unverified; green – complete.

Logging: the audit trail of modification occurrences in the project.

Record: the set of information for a unique participant or subject. Each record is composed of a number of fields (pieces of data), which can be spread across multiple forms (instruments) per record.

Record ID: a unique key that can identify each record in the database. (You may label this differently in your project, but the ID must remain the first field in the first data form.)

User Rights: the customized privileges that research team members have in terms of data form modification, data entry, and data access. P.I.s may create “Roles” for groups of team members to ensure consistency in specified user rights.

Variable Name: the name of the variable that is stored in the REDCap database (not visible during data entry).