To collect SMS messages (including WhatsApp and Facebook messages), we rely on the generosity of the British public to provide us with their messages to incorporate into the corpus. We are asking the public to provide us with copies of any messages sent between 2014 and 2018. Messages should be unedited, but you are welcome to anonymise them. We will carry out our own anonymization procedures, but if you would like to remove any personal information yourself, please replace it with [anon] before submission.

Note: SMS messages should be written by British native speakers, people who grew up in the UK and use English as their first language, and unedited.

To submit WhatsApp messages:
Read each step in conjunction with the screenshots below.

Step 1: Open WhatsApp in your mobile device.

Step 2: Select the conversation you wish to share, and click on the name of the other person (or group) at the top of the chat.

Step 3: Scroll down, press “Export Chat”, and then “Without Media”.

Step 4: Email the chat log to yourself.

Step 5: You are welcome to anonymise the data by replacing any names or personal information with [anon]. We will carry out our own anonymization procedures and automatically remove the timestamp and user ID, but if you would like to remove personal information yourself, we would recommend sifting through your messages to ensure you are happy for everything to be included in the corpus.

Step 6: Visit the “SMS collection” page through the CASS website and upload your .txt file through the Google form: http://cass.lancs.ac.uk/?page_id=2462
BNC 2014 – WhatsApp message collection

BNC 2014

BNC2014 team: Vaclav Brezina, Carmen Dayrell, Mathew Gillings, Abi Hawtin, Tony McEnery and Matt Timperley