

Building Partnerships & Leadership

2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT

ICPSR'S SPECIAL TOPIC ARCHIVES

ICPSR hosts several externally funded Special Topic Archives, whose activities focus on archiving and disseminating data in specific subject areas.

Child Care and Early Education *Research Connections*.

sponsored by the Child Care Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS),

sponsored by the Library of Congress

Data Sharing for Demographic Research (DSDR),

sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Health and Medical Care Archive (HMCA),

sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

International Archive of Education Data (IAED),

sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics

National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA),

sponsored by the National Institute on Aging

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD),

sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Institute of Justice

Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods

(PHDCN), sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA),

sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Myron P. Gutmann
Director

ICPSR has completed another successful year, and we write with pleasure about the year's accomplishments. We have improved the way we deliver data products, restructured our membership categories, and have added two new archives.

We have also experienced a mixture of sadness over colleagues retired and satisfaction over new colleagues who have joined ICPSR.

The visible face of change at ICPSR is our 2005 Web site design, successfully launched in March. It brings valuable features to our presence on the Web, including a shopping cart that helps data users gather data for their research, and a wider array of formats than we have offered in the past. Earlier in the year, we launched MyData, which allows ICPSR's user community the opportunity to identify themselves when they download data, and allows us to better serve them.

ICPSR's heart comes from its structure as a membership organization, and in 2004–2005 we endeavored to recruit members and provide them with the best available services in the areas of data archiving, preservation, and sharing, and instruction in quantitative methods for social science. After several years of discussion, the ICPSR Council approved changes in the Bylaws that tie our membership categories to the widely recognized Carnegie classification of institutions of higher education. After navigating those waters, ICPSR's newly hired Director of Marketing and Membership, Linda Detterman, turned her considerable energies to devising a marketing plan that will allow us to bring the benefits of ICPSR membership to many more campuses.

We also added two innovative externally-funded projects. In Data Sharing for Demographic Research (DSDR), funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, we are working with the demographic research community to help them find ways to share their data with others. The Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS), funded by the Library of Congress, is an effort to ensure the long-term preservation of older social science data



that might otherwise be lost. Both projects are partnerships of multiple institutions, with DSDR bringing together ICPSR, the University of Michigan's Population Studies Center, the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Population Center, and the University of North Carolina's Carolina Population Center. Data-PASS is a partnership of several well-established data archives, including ICPSR, the Roper Center, the Odum Institute, the Murray Research Archive, the Harvard-MIT Data Center, and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Finally, ICPSR has continued to see the changing of the guard in key positions. After 37 years of extraordinary service, Janet Vavra chose to retire in February. There are no words to describe her contributions to the organization, and how much we will miss her voice of experience and good judgment. Another transition occurred this year as Amy Pienta, who joined the staff in 2003 as Director of Acquisitions and headed the Demographic Research project for a year, turned the leadership of DSDR over to Felicia LeClere, who comes to us from the University of Notre Dame. This year also brought Christopher Maxwell from Michigan State University (where he continues as Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Studies) to direct the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, and Asmat Noori from the University of Michigan Hospitals, to lead our strong computer support group. We welcome all of these individuals, their skills, and their leadership, and we encourage all our members to get to know them and the professional staff that works with them.



Erik Austin
Assistant Director

As we turn to 2005–2006 we look forward to making the most of the opportunities that these changes bring to us, and we look forward to continuing our service to our members and to the larger community of social science.

MYRON GUTMANN

ERIK AUSTIN



On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate ICPSR's director, Myron Gutmann, and the outstanding ICPSR staff, not just for another outstanding year, but for an extraordinary trajectory of accomplishments over the past five years. It's time to take stock to understand who we are and where we are going as an organization.

Mark Hayward
University of Texas

ICPSR has undergone substantial organizational change that has produced many positive results. New units such as "Collection Delivery" and "Data Preservation" have been created that highlight the importance of these activities for ICPSR. ICPSR's data archiving and distribution practices have been fundamentally changed. Paper documentation has become digitized – an enormous accomplishment. Data users now have direct electronic access to data. The "data pipeline" process has been streamlined and standards for different parts of the process have been integrated.

A thoughtful strategic plan that outlines goals for the next decade and the means to achieve them is in place. ICPSR leadership is an important part of the plan. Hiring Myron Gutmann was the lynchpin for ICPSR's growth and development. Myron is an energetic and visionary director. ICPSR has institutionalized its commitment to continuous improvement by creating a leadership position with continuous organizational improvement as its core function. ICPSR's commitment to its membership has led to the creation of the Director of Marketing and Membership position with the aim of increasing the benefits of ICPSR membership for current and future members. Archival managers hired in recent years have Faculty Research status and can serve as principal investigators of extramural grants. This new emphasis in hiring reflects the growing importance of extramural grants to accomplish ICPSR's mission.

ICPSR has never been better positioned to take on the challenges of serving a dynamic social science community. In the forthcoming year, the partnership of ICPSR of Council/staff/director will be addressing a wide range of issues of importance to members:

- Developing new guidelines to improve data acquisition
- Addressing the challenges of archiving and disseminating nontraditional social science data
- Encouraging development of new instructional materials for ICPSR data
- Developing new online analysis tools
- Exploring new ways to expand the ICPSR membership community

ICPSR's importance to the social sciences stems from the preservation of data that will improve scientific understanding of the antecedents and consequences of social policies, and social, political, and institutional change. This message is not new, but it bears repeating. ICPSR is a fundamental institutional anchor for the future development of social research. All of us – members, staff, and Council – play important roles in preserving and nurturing a scientific treasure.

Council extends its deepest appreciation to ICPSR staff for their outstanding performance over the past year. Council also gratefully acknowledges the many contributions of ICPSR's director, Myron Gutmann, and his outstanding leadership. ICPSR has come a long way over the past five years, and it is clearly poised to take advantage of emerging opportunities in social science archiving, education, and research.

MARK HAYWARD

In the past year, ICPSR built partnerships with other leading academic and archival institutions, not only to archive important social science data but also to address issues at the forefront of data archiving and sharing. Together, ICPSR and its partners seek to preserve the legacy of the social science research community and to develop standards and tools for data delivery that will serve scholars, students, and policymakers well into the future.

The year was also notable in its emphasis on leadership. A longtime, dedicated archivist retired and new staff were recruited to provide leadership in the archiving, marketing and membership, and computer and network services areas.

ICPSR continues to build and reaffirm its partnership with scholars and students of the social sciences by offering a unique combination of data resources, user support, training in quantitative methods, and membership benefits. The following pages of this report describe the year's activities in more detail.

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NEW INITIATIVE **Data Sharing for Demographic Research (DSDR)**

is a project of ICPSR in collaboration with the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota, and the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan.

Amy Pienta

Director of Acquisitions
and the Data Preservation
Alliance for the Social
Sciences

The project, supported by the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, is designed to directly address the issue of preparing original data collections for release to the public. Now beginning its second year, the project's focus is to expedite the process of releasing federally funded data collections of interest to demographers to the user public. In addition to traditional data archiving activities, work on the project includes developing Web-based and software tools for data producers to improve documentation, user guides, disclosure review, and data editing/cleaning.

In the first year of the project, DSDR staff have completed a restricted-use contract Web module and are beginning work on a Web-based prototype for dataset user guides. The project is particularly focused on developing tools for archiving and analyzing complex data files and datasets that may pose particular disclosure risks. Another mission of the DSDR project is to educate both data producers and users about preparing data for public release. As part of the ICPSR Summer Program, data librarians and managers came to Ann Arbor for a three-day seminar addressing the challenges of preparing data for release including disclosure review, documentation, data cleaning and display, and designing and administering restricted-use contracts. Additional training is planned in the Summer Program as well as other venues. Research and development is the final part of the project and includes our partners at the

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Darrell Donakowski
Project Manager for the
Data Preservation Alliance
for the Social Sciences

Minnesota, North Carolina, and Michigan Population Centers. Disclosure risk for spatial data is the topic of research at North Carolina while researchers at Minnesota are working on a software tool to assist users in analyzing complex data files. Work on metadata standards for longitudinal files is also part of the research portfolio for DSDR.

DSDR capitalizes on the current and past experience of ICPSR archival staff in bringing data to the user public. In addition to archiving data, DSDR will share the tools, knowledge, and expertise of ICPSR staff directly with data producers and users in order to facilitate the timely release of important data to the scientific community at large.

The DSDR Web site is www.icpsr.umich.edu/DSDR and DSDR staff can be reached at dsdr@icpsr.umich.edu.

NEW INITIATIVE Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences

In the past year, ICPSR has continued its commitment to building partnerships for the greater good of the social science research community. One way that we are accomplishing this is through the formation of the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS). Data-PASS is sponsored by the Library of Congress' National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program. The project is led by ICPSR in collaboration with the Roper Center at the University of Connecticut, the Odum Institute at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the Harvard-MIT Data Center of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University, the Henry A. Murray Research Archive of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University, and the Electronic and Special Media Records Services Division of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Data from many important studies in the social sciences have never been archived, and therefore are in danger of being lost. Much of the information, however, may still exist in offices of

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individual researchers and institutions. We want to save this integral heritage of information about American culture and society while there is still a chance. Together, the partners will appraise, acquire, catalog, and preserve these classic and at-risk data. We need the help of the entire social science research community in identifying potential data collections.

Felicia LeClere
Director of the Data
Sharing for Demographic
Research Project

We seek data that (1) are theoretically and/or methodologically ground breaking, (2) are representative of a national, important regional, or historically underrepresented population in research, (3) were collected as part of a policy evaluation, or (4) were cited as part of a seminal collection or tied to unrepeated or rare events. See our Web site (www.icpsr.umich.edu/Data-PASS) for contact information or send e-mail to Data-PASS@icpsr.umich.edu. Together, we can ensure that the vital history of social science data will continue to be available to future generations of researchers.

As the lead institution for the Data-PASS project, ICPSR has guided the creation of our Articles of Collaboration, appraisal guidelines, and accompanying checklist, and has drafted a version of the selection and acquisition guidelines that are to be used. We have identified over 5,000 federally-funded studies that have produced social science data, the majority of which have not been archived. A database was created to track research leads. Leads and valuable information on current best practices in data appraisal and preservation have originated from our contacts at conferences, from other organizations, and through monitoring additional sources (e.g., listservs for social science organizations). Also, ICPSR staff coauthored an article that appeared in the December 2004 issue of the CODATA Journal, titled "The Selection, Appraisal, and Retention of Social Science Data."

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Most Frequently Downloaded Studies, 2004–2005

Census of Population and Housing, 2000 [United States]: Summary File 4

CrimeStat III: A Spatial Statistics Program for the Analysis of Crime Incident Locations (version 3.0)

Matlab (Bangladesh) Health and Socioeconomic Survey (MHSS), 1996

United States Congressional Roll Call Voting Records

United States Historical Elections Returns, 1824–1968

National Election Pool General Election Exit Polls, 2004

United States Congressional Roll Call Voting Records, 1789–1990: Reformatted Data

Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data [United States]: 1975–1997

Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey), 2003

Voter News Service General Election Exit Polls, 2000



Census of Population and Housing, 2000 [United States]: Summary File 1, States

Federal Court Cases: Integrated Data Base, 1970–2000

European and World Value Surveys Integrated Data File, 1999–2002, Release I

United Nations World Surveys of Crime Trends and Criminal Justice Systems, 1970–1994

General Social Surveys, 1972–2002: [Cumulative File]

Historical, Demographic, Economic, and Social Data: The United States, 1790–1970

National Assessment of Educational Progress [United States], 1970–1980

Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1968–1999: Annual Core Data

Census of Population and Housing, 1990 [United States]: Summary Tape File 4A

National Health Interview Survey, 2002



**Joanne McFarland
O'Rourke**

Director of the Substance
Abuse and Mental Health
Data Archive

Archival Processing Activities: Five-Year Summary

The Five-Year Data Processing Summary table presents information on the data collections processed and released by ICPSR during the last five fiscal years. These figures include both newly-released collections and updates to existing collections. The numbers of discrete files reflect only the data files processed and released and do not include documentation and other supporting files.

Upgraded Data Products

As of March 2005, in addition to SAS and SPSS setup files, each new study is released with Stata setup files and “ready-to-go” files (SAS transport, SPSS portable, Stata system), giving users more data format and statistical package options. ICPSR also retrofitted over 700 existing studies in fiscal year 2005. In the future, we aim to have this in place for as many studies as possible.

Third Edition of *Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving*

The third edition of the *Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving* was published this year. Focusing on best practice throughout the data life cycle, this volume outlines a series of steps that help data producers prepare for the ultimate goal of data sharing and archiving. Research investigators are advised to address these goals throughout all phases of their projects – proposal planning and writing, project start-up and data management, data collection and file creation, data analysis, and data sharing and archiving.

Data Distribution, 2001–2005

Fiscal Year	Institutions	Datasets	Megabytes
2001	367	73,376	2,955,469.43
2002	463	181,064	6,374,947.63
2003	598	248,458	9,334,863.27
2004	462	364,351	12,782,377.25
2005	503	321,134	12,505,092.22

Five-Year Data Processing Summary

Fiscal Year	Collections Released	Data Files Released
2001	372	1,835
2002	327	16,415
2003	419	26,641
2004	417	363,653
2005	371	1,480

Note: Data file totals in FY 02–04 show the impact of the 2000 Census.

data sharing

ICPSR Web Site

We have upgraded our public Web site with numerous features, including a tab-driven user interface that offers our users additional ways to search for relevant studies, download the relevant components, and more easily identify and manage the downloaded files. The Download page has been revised considerably. Rather than selecting individual files for download, users are now able to download groups of files necessary to perform analysis. Users select their preferred statistical package, opt for either “ready-to-go” files or ASCII data and corresponding setup files, then select the desired datasets, add them to the cart, and download the files.

Process Improvement Update

During the past year, ICPSR staff have enhanced and streamlined the internal study pipeline process with a number of improvements. We have:

- Standardized internal formats for filenaming, timestamping, study versioning, and citations
- Automated major portions of our data pipeline, including the quality checking of processed statistical data, and the rendition of that data into multiple distribution formats for user convenience
- Automated generation of PDF codebooks from XML metadata
- Automated tracking of the progress of a study through the data processing pipeline
- Introduced Web forms to eliminate rekeying of study metadata
- Implemented an automated user request tracking system



Asmat Noori
Assistant Director of
Computing and Network
Services

MyData User Registration System

MyData, ICPSR's user registration and authentication system for the Web site, was rolled out in the fall of 2004. MyData creates a more secure environment for users since it requires a password to authenticate to the Web site. Users can now set download preferences, view prior download history, reset forgotten passwords, and sign up for notification services that ICPSR is developing. The vast majority of downloading is done through MyData; however, some special topic archives have included the option to download data anonymously due to requirements of their funding agencies. Users on these sites will see an option to log in anonymously.

The MyData system has allowed ICPSR to better understand who our users are, which in turn will help us determine how to better serve them. Here is a brief profile of MyData account holders:

- Slightly over half originate from educational institutions.
- About one quarter originate from a commercial address.
- Most MyData accounts from users outside the United States are from Canada and the United Kingdom.
- Between 65–71 percent of download activity originates from member institutions.
- About 40 percent of ICPSR users are graduate students and 26 percent are undergraduates.
- University faculty represent 16 percent of ICPSR users.
- Only about 8 percent of data downloading is done by unauthenticated users.

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ICPSR closed fiscal year 2005 with revenues totaling \$12.9 million. Representing a 12% increase over 2004, revenues were at their highest levels ever. Membership dues income remained constant, representing approximately 21% of revenues.

All other forms of revenue experienced an increase in 2005. Sponsored project awards rose 9% since last year, totaling \$5.8 million. These funds now contribute approximately 45% of total ICPSR revenues. As a result of more favorable market conditions compared to 2004, investment income grew nearly 90% in 2005, totaling \$89,000. ICPSR earned 20% more from its tuition-paying Summer Program participants and 0.2% more from its fee-paying Summer Program participants.

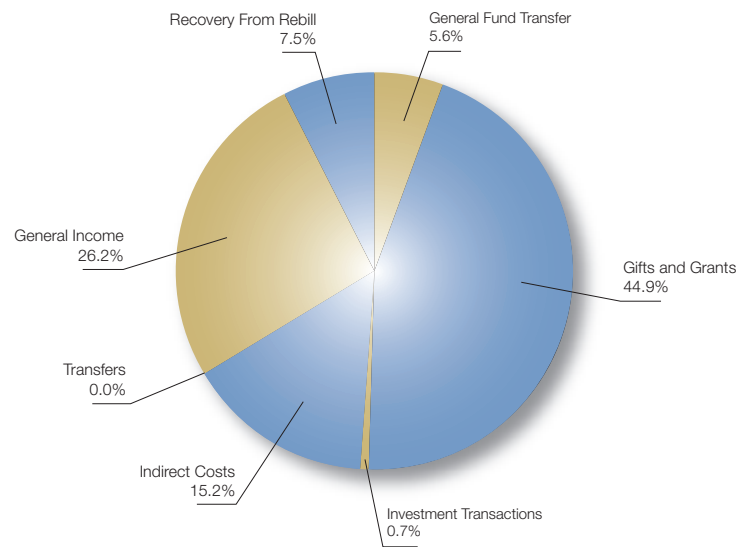
ICPSR's expenses increased along with its revenues. In 2005, total expenses reached \$12.7 million. The most significant factor contributing to the 15% increase in expenses is the growth in sponsored project awards. ICPSR also made a substantial investment by loaning funds to the Institute for Social Research to build an addition onto the Perry Building, ICPSR's new home. Upon construction completion in March 2006, the new addition will house the Survey Research Center's Survey Research Operations.

ICPSR's favorable fiscal year 2005 resulted in a \$155,620 contribution to fund balance. As of June 30, 2005, ICPSR maintains a total fund balance of \$2,188,590. Although ICPSR's fund balance is at its healthiest level since its inception, the organization will continue to augment reserves to ensure that its fiduciary responsibilities to its members can be met.

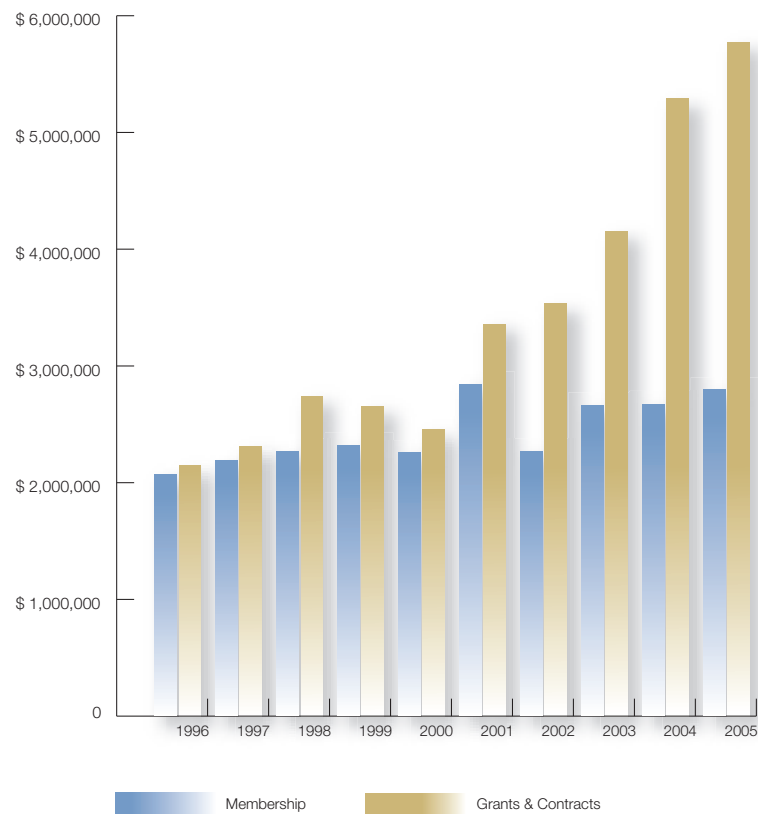
Consolidated Fiscal Year 2005 Actuals

Beginning Balance	\$	2,032,969
Revenue		
General Fund Transfers	\$	721,370
Gifts/Grants		5,772,891
Investment Transactions		88,505
Recovery from Rebill		960,136
General Income		3,366,520
Transfers		4,505
Indirect Costs		1,952,745
Total Revenue	\$	12,866,672
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	\$	7,139,447
Instructional Faculty Salaries		30,464
Financial Aid		87,971
Communications		48,750
Fees and Services		964,067
General Expenses		775,606
Maintenance		39,653
Space Rental		49,608
Travel and Housing		310,573
Indirect Cost Recovered		1,952,745
Transfers and Distributions		1,312,167
Total Expenses	\$	12,711,052
Revenue Over/(Under) Expenses	\$	155,620
Ending Balance	\$	2,188,590

Sources of Revenue: Fiscal Year 2005



Revenue From Memberships and Grants



Summary of Membership

ICPSR has over 500 members in the United States and around the world. In 2004–05, sixteen new institutions joined the Consortium: University of Cyprus, Colorado State University, Texas State University at San Marcos, London School of Economics, Western Carolina University, Montana State University, Singapore Management University, Lewis and Clark College, Amherst College, Lee University, Macalester College, University of Ghent (Belgium), Wiener Institut für Sozialwissenschaftliche Dokumentation und Metodik (Austrian National Membership), and the Swiss Data Archive for the Social Sciences. Four institutions, University of Minnesota at Morris, North Carolina A&T University, West Chester University, and Chicago State University, reinstated their memberships.

Membership Review

In fiscal year 2005, ICPSR staff and Council concluded an initiative to simplify and rework the membership structure for U.S. academic institutions. After much research, the ad hoc committee on membership, appointed by Council in 2002, recommended the adoption of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education (www.carnegiefoundation.org/Classification). In October 2004, Council adopted this classification scheme, and in March 2005, after input from the ICPSR membership, Council adopted the new fee structure associated with the Carnegie Classification segments. The bylaws have been updated accordingly and adopted, and the new scheme will be implemented in 2007. A review of international memberships is forthcoming and will begin with an update to the language of international contracts.



Donald Davison
2005 OR Sabbatical Fellow

2005 Official Representative Sabbatical

ICPSR's Official Representative sabbatical program provides an opportunity for an OR to work at ICPSR on an archive-related project of his or her choice. The purpose of the sabbatical is to advance ICPSR's mission and provide a career development opportunity for an OR in his or her field of expertise. The 2005 sabbatical was awarded to Donald Davison, Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. During his summer 2005 residency at ICPSR as OR Sabbatical Fellow, he worked on his instructional module, **Continuity and Change in American National Elections, 1952–2004** (ICPSR 3727) [forthcoming]. Professor Davison's article about the module, "The Joy of Political Science: Beyond Punditry and Spin to Meaningful Statistical Data Analysis," was published in the Fall 2005 issue of the *ICPSR Bulletin*.

Summary of ICPSR Membership, 2004–2005

Doctoral Research Extensive 138

Doctoral Research Intensive 84

Master's Comprehensive 60

B.A. Universities 66

Specialized Institutions 3

Associate/Community Colleges 1

U.S.-Based Associates 10

Canadian Institutions 29

Other International Institutions* 175

Total 514

*Includes 19 national memberships and 22 individual non-North American memberships.



2004 Summer Training Program

The ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research is nationally and internationally recognized for basic and advanced training in research design, statistics, data analysis, and social methodology. The Program's instructional environment stresses integration of methods of quantitative analysis within a broader context of substantive social research. Instruction is coordinated with and reinforced by student participation in data analysis using state-of-the-art networked micro-computers.



The 42nd annual ICPSR Summer Training Program in 2004 had a total of 637 individuals in attendance for the 46 courses (lecture series and workshops) offered. This is the third largest enrollment in the 42-year history of the organization. Average yearly enrollment for the previous five year period of 1999–2003 was 605.

Participants represented 25 different departments and/or disciplines from 200 colleges, universities, and organizations in the United States, Canada, and approximately 20 other countries. While sociology (15 percent), psychology (9 percent), and political science (28 percent) continue to be represented by the largest number of participants, the increasing number of individuals from across the social and behavioral sciences illustrates the breadth of interest in and impact of the Program.

In 2004, several new courses were introduced into the curriculum: Quantitative Research Methods in the Study of Russia and Eastern Europe; Advanced Game Theory; Designing, Conducting, and Analyzing Field Experiments; Using Data from the Early Head Start Studies; and Data Mining.

The Program instructional staff numbered 47 individuals. Of these, 41 held faculty appointments at Consortium member institutions. The 2004 staff represented nine disciplines from 31 universities.

Research Activities

The “Demography and Environment in Grassland Settlement” grant continued during fiscal year 2005 with intensive validation of the nearly quarter of a million records entered the previous year, and with linking these Kansas population records to farm records. Environmental data, digital soil survey information, and historical weather data were also processed to fit the 25 sample townships. The research staff also began creating air photo mosaics and parcel-level



Linda Detterman
Director of Marketing and
Membership

community

ownership maps of the townships. Analysis of the interaction of household composition and agricultural practices using these resources will be the focus of the upcoming year.

Last year's new NICHD-funded project, "Grammars of Death: 19th-Century Literal Causes of Death from the Age of Miasmas to Germ Theory," continues the collaboration with the University of Massachusetts to deepen understanding of the 19th century mortality transition. Activities at ICPSR have included researching medical personnel and institutions in Holyoke and Northampton, Massachusetts, and investigating understandings of disease and death using the extensive resources available at the two U of Ms.

The "Agrarian Landscapes in Transition" project continued its NSF-funded collaborative research on historical land transformation across the United States. At a workshop held at Archbold Biological Station in Florida last February, researchers from six Long Term Ecological Research sites began an investigation of land protection in their study areas that will use a recent time series of Landsat satellite images to examine patterns of conservation easement and land protection. For further information, see the project Web page: <http://ces.asu.edu/agtrans/index.htm>.

JANET VAVRA RETIRES



Janet Vavra, ICPSR's Director of Technical Services and User Support, retired from ICPSR in February 2005. Janet earned a B.A. from the University of Nebraska and an M.A. from the University of Hawaii in Political Science and began working at ICPSR in 1968. She also pursued additional computer science and statistics training at the University of Michigan and Stanford University. In recent years, Janet turned her focus to archival preservation and data security. She chaired and participated in panels at social science and professional conferences, wrote papers and articles on all aspects of digital (electronic) records management and distribution, and taught workshops.

A central member of the ICPSR staff, Janet was a key contact and mentor for data users at ICPSR's member institutions around the world, assisting countless individuals with research projects and dissertations. As Ann Gray, a former ICPSR Official Representative from Cornell University, remarked, "A hallmark of Janet's work was her emphasis on quality. When we got data from Janet and ICPSR, we knew it would be right!" Acting ICPSR Director Erik Austin adds, "Janet Vavra was a huge contributor to the social sciences over the last three plus decades. Her (mostly) behind-the-scenes work enabled researchers and students to continue their scholarly pursuits despite a dizzying pace of technological change. She helped guide us through the transitions from punch cards to magnetic tapes, to diskettes and cartridge tapes, and finally to file downloading off the Web. Thousands of scientists benefited from Janet's dedication and innovative approach without even knowing how critical her contributions were. Yet hundreds of us do know how important Janet was in making these technological transitions smooth and successful. We salute her for her career and will miss her."

ICPSR staff and Council wish Janet the very best in retirement and extend their sincere thanks for her outstanding contributions to the social science research community.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH IS AN ORGANIZATION OF MEMBER INSTITUTIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO:

- ACQUIRE AND PRESERVE SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA
- PROVIDE OPEN AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THESE DATA
- PROMOTE EFFECTIVE DATA USE

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