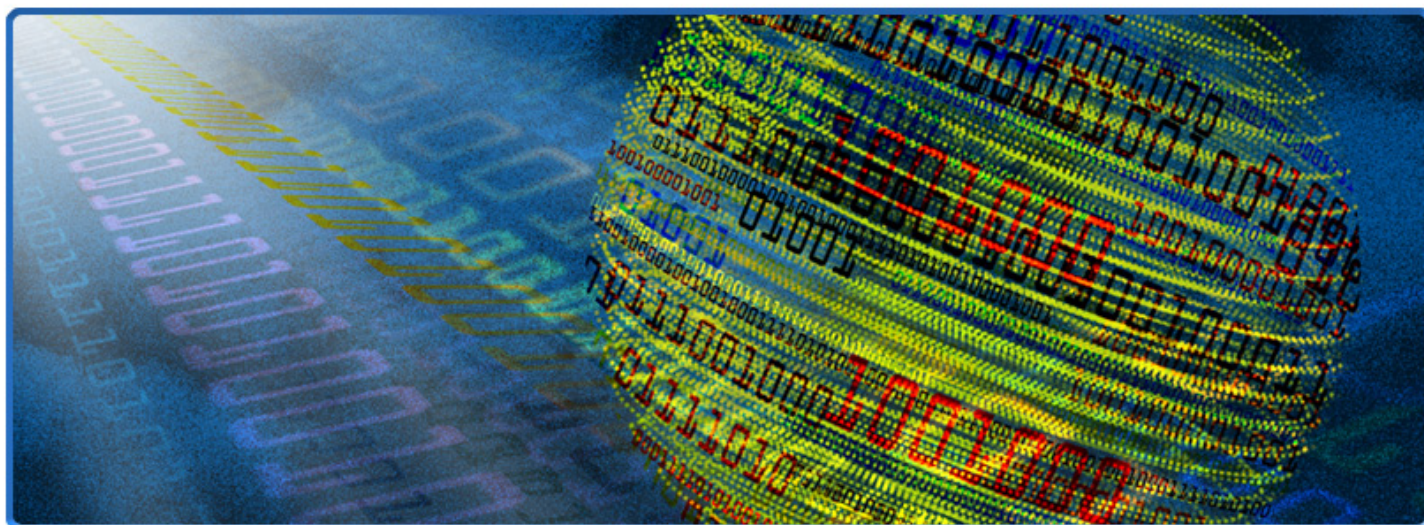


2009-2010 Annual Report



Connecting the Community

Connecting the Community — bringing together the social science world to expand and improve our research capabilities and practices — is one of the core missions of ICPSR, and one we've made tremendous progress on this year.

This report describes our continuing efforts to connect the community, from meetings and educational workshops that bring researchers from around the country to our Ann Arbor headquarters, to new collections that widen the scope of data available from ICPSR, to our renowned Summer Program in Quantitative Methods that experienced record attendance this year.

ICPSR will continue to build on these accomplishments to strengthen its support for the research community in the coming years.

Thanks for reading our 2009-2010 annual report! Please contact us at netmail@icpsr.umich.edu with any comments or suggestions.

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From the Acting Director

George Alter



This annual report describes a busy and eventful year at ICPSR, a year of continued growth in membership, sponsored projects, and services to the social science community. In spite of the financial uncertainty facing many of our member institutions, Consortium membership grew to more than 690 this year. Our portfolio of sponsored projects grew significantly in the past

year, and we currently have grants and contracts from 18 different funding sources. The articles in this report describes many of the ways that ICPSR is working to connect this growing community.

To reduce costs to our members, the 2009 biennial meeting of ICPSR Official Representatives was changed from an in-person gathering in Ann Arbor to a "virtual" meeting. We broadcast 24 webinars on the Internet, which were attended by 227 participants from 152 different institutions. Attendees viewed slides and images online, while they listened to live presentations and submitted questions through an online chat system. All of these presentations were recorded and are available on the ICPSR Web site. More than half of those who completed an evaluation indicated that they could not have come to Ann Arbor, but they missed the networking opportunities offered by an onsite meeting.

A growing consensus among funding agencies that data sharing produces more and better science has contributed to further growth in ICPSR archiving projects. As described elsewhere in this report, funding for ICPSR's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA) was renewed for five more years, and SAMHDA Director JoAnne McFarland will be introducing a number of new and innovative features. The National Institute on Drug Abuse awarded ICPSR a contract to create a new archive, the National Addiction & HIV Data Archive Program, to disseminate and preserve data

collected by NIDA grantees. In addition, the American Educational Research Association included a subcontract to ICPSR in its latest NSF grant, and we are working with them to establish a culture of data sharing in education-related research.

ICPSR has long been a leader in training the social scientists of tomorrow, and we have expanded our focus to include resources for undergraduate education as well as the most advanced statistical techniques. Under the leadership of Bill Jacoby, the 2010 Summer Program served a record number of participants -- nearly 830 -- with more than 60 courses. Our Online Learning Center led by Lynette Hoelter offers "data-driven learning guides" that help instructors to integrate quantitative reasoning into introductory social science courses. In October 2009, we launched TeachingWithData.org (TwD), a new service to help faculty locate resources for teaching quantitative literacy. TwD, which is the first social science "pathway" on NSF's National Science Digital Library, has more than 900 links to data-driven student exercises, lesson plans, pedagogical literature, tables, figures, and other materials. We also provide features like "Data in the News" and a "Spotlight" on exceptional teachers. TwD is a partnership between ICPSR and the Social Science Data Analysis Network, founded by William Frey in the University of Michigan's Population Studies Center.

This was a year of significant leadership changes at ICPSR. We welcomed John Garcia as Director of Community Outreach. John, who moved to Michigan from the Department of Political Science at the University of Arizona, is leading ICPSR's Resource Center for Minority Data. We also note with regret the departures of two important ICPSR senior staff, who have moved to exciting new jobs. Felicia LeClere, who directed the Data Sharing for Demographic Research archive, is now at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, and Myron Gutmann left the ICPSR directorship to head the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate at the U.S. National Science Foundation. It has been a privilege for me to serve as ICPSR's Acting Director in these exciting and challenging times.

From the Council Chair

Ann Wolpert



Everyone who joins the ICPSR Council is impressed by the quality of the council members and the effectiveness of the ICPSR governance structure. The ICPSR Council performs its responsibility to incorporate member organization views into ICPSR's organizational decision making with well-informed commitment. The continued success and vitality of ICPSR, together with a firm

belief in the mission and purpose of the organization, are abiding constants in the Council's deliberations and counsel.

The ICPSR Council can perform effectively only because of the exceptional talent and dedication of the research, administrative, and professional staff of ICPSR. Organizations like ICPSR are able to achieve high levels of excellence and continued innovation only if talented and dedicated individuals within the organization make it so. The respect the Council holds for the staff, and the willingness of the staff to consider input offered by the Council, are but two hallmarks of the strength of the organization.

A major focus of the ICPSR Council during the past year has been the recruitment of ICPSR's next director. The Council has played an active role in shaping the position description and desired attributes of the next director, and has worked closely with Professor James S. Jackson, Director of the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, to design a process that will attract the highest quality candidates to this important role. The search committee, under the leadership of Professor Pamela Smock, Director of the Population Studies Center at the Institute for Social Research, includes excellent representation from the ICPSR Council. Professor Smock and the committee have moved with alacrity and ingenuity to identify an outstanding candidate pool.

An organization like ICPSR, which is committed to attracting, preserving, and providing access to important data archives, must have a continuity of its own. The Council is deeply grateful to Professor George Alter

for agreeing to add to his responsibilities and serve as acting director of ICPSR this year. Under Professor Alter's thoughtful leadership, ICPSR has been able to maintain momentum by pursuing opportunities and addressing key challenges, all the while continuing a steady focus on the core services and strategic priorities of ICPSR. During the past year, ICPSR has reconsidered and redesigned aspects of its important goal of training researchers and students in the methods and techniques of statistical analysis. For example, a new service launched in October 2009 facilitates the teaching of quantitative literacy by providing links to pedagogical tools and materials for instructors and teachers.

Despite the economic turmoil experienced in much of higher education in the past year, ICPSR has achieved solid financial performance during a difficult financial time. Credit for this admirable situation belongs to the senior administration as well as the leadership and staff of ICPSR who focus on membership, marketing, and collection development. John Garcia is already making a difference in his new role as Director of Community Outreach. Likewise, the sustained excellence of the archive directors is now enhanced by ICPSR's growing influence in both the preservation community and the information technology community focused on data management.

As a librarian, I have personally welcomed the opportunity to engage with the intellectual vigor and richness of the social sciences research that is at the core of ICPSR. Libraries and librarians have become a meaningful component of the Official Representative community of ICPSR within the past decade, and I am eager to consider the bridges that might be built among our communities going forward.

This report would not be complete without acknowledging James Jackson's consistent support for ICPSR and its critically important role in the social sciences. I also thank my patient mentor and Council Chair predecessor, Aletha Huston. Finally, I wish to thank and acknowledge the many scholars, librarians, and students who are actively engaged – whether as learners, instructors, or contributors – in the work of ICPSR. Through their research, campus activities, and service as Official Representatives, these individuals also contribute to the long-term vitality of this important enterprise.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Progress

ICPSR continued to make important strides in all five of our Strategic Plan directives this fiscal year. This section outlines some of the specific achievements in each area, with links to more detailed information.

Direction 1 - Leadership Role

This direction promotes development of ICPSR's role as a leader in building standards and tools for effective digital curation available to the wider research community. The accomplishments of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive ([SAMHDA](#)) this year exemplify ICPSR's leadership in data archiving and dissemination. Principal Investigator JoAnne McFarland led SAMHDA through the competitive contract renewal process, which resulted in the largest contract award in ICPSR history -- a five-year, \$7.5 million award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Direction 2 - Membership Value

ICPSR is committed to providing superior services to our membership. Part of that effort involves educating members on exactly what ICPSR has to offer. Toward that end, we have started providing [webinars by request](#), allowing member institutions or potential members to ask for Web-based training sessions on any aspect of ICPSR's services.

ICPSR also continues to visit member and potential member institutions around the country to highlight the services we provide.



Direction 3 - Broadened Collections

Expanding our data holdings is crucial to the core mission of ICPSR. This year we launched or significantly developed several new collections, including:

- Launch of the [National Addiction & HIV Data Archive Project](#), funded by the National Institute on Drug Addiction to collect, process and disseminate data from NIDA-funded research
- Release by the [Integrated Fertility Survey Series](#) of a harmonized dataset from 10 surveys on fertility and the family conducted over 50 years
- Acquisition by the [Resource Center for Minority Data](#) of data from the Mexican American Study Project, a survey done in the mid 1960s that was lost for decades but rediscovered at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Direction 4 - Education Strength

ICPSR is constantly expanding its educational activities and building on the strengths of the [Summer Program](#). This year, we started exploring development of data-based curricula for community colleges and high schools. ICPSR staff attended a conference of the American Association of Community Colleges, and also brought in several experts on geography, economics, and history education for grades 9-12 to discuss new directions for the learning guides available through the [TeachingWithData.org](#) Web site.

Meanwhile, the Summer Program continued to expand its course offerings with new workshops on Categorical Data Analysis, Data Analysis Using Stata, and Time Series Analysis, among others.

Direction 5 - Resource Capacity

This direction calls for investment in ICPSR's people, systems, and the workplace environment to assure the consortium's innovation and leadership going forward. One of the steps ICPSR took this year to advance this direction was to develop an employee orientation handbook and training process intended to quickly acquaint new hires with ICPSR's operations. Dozens of employees have already been through the new orientation.

New Initiatives

National Addiction & HIV Data Archive Program

Funded through a five-year contract with the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Addiction & HIV Data Archive Program launched this year under Principal Investigator Felicia LeClere (James McNally is serving as the archive's interim director after LeClere's departure from ICPSR).

NAHDAP's goal is to acquire, prepare, and disseminate data resulting from NIDA-funded research, and the archive has made significant progress this year:

- An initial group of datasets was made available in June through the NAHDAP [Web site](#), including the National Survey of Parents and Youth, the Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies, and the Sexual Acquisition and Transmission of HIV Cooperative Agreement Program.
- A team of staff is in place including Archive Manager Sabrina Bauroth.
- An RFP for subcontracts for data acquisition went out in June. NAHDAP expects to award at least five contracts worth \$50,000 each. The deadline for applications is December 2010.

NAHDAP offers a variety of services and support to data users and depositors, as well as education and training programs.



China Multi-Generational Panel Dataset-Liaoning

The China Multi-Generational Panel Dataset-Liaoning, under a new grant from the National Institutes of Health with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, contains data on families and communities in the Liaoning Province of China collected by James Z. Lee and Cameron D. Campbell covering a period of more than 150 years. ICPSR's Susan Hautaniemi Leonard is coordinating the data deposit as Principal Investigator.



The dataset consists of more than 1.5 million triennial observations for more than 260,000 individuals in 698 rural communities.



The long time span; the volume, detail and completeness of the data; and the inclusion of longitudinal data on individuals, households, families, and communities make CMGPD-LN unique among publicly available datasets.

Unlike typical censuses, observations of individuals can be tracked from one register to the next, allowing the construction of life histories over longer periods of time.

The depth and richness of these data facilitate analyses that can reveal the influence of geography on and community on demographic outcomes, and connections between demographic behavior, family organization, and socio-economic status across generations.

New Initiatives *(Continued)*

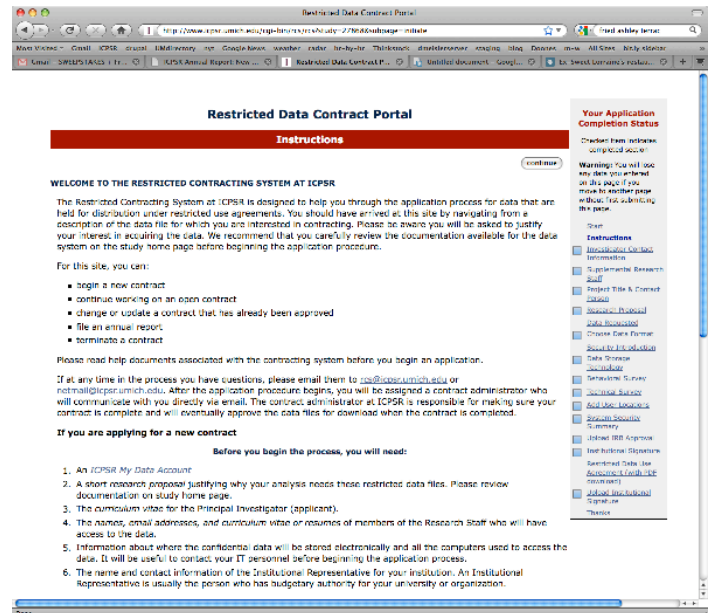
Restricted-Use Contracting System (RCS)

ICPSR is developing an online system for receiving, processing, and administering contracts to access restricted-use data.

Work is nearly complete on the Restricted-Use Contracting System (RCS) that will enable ICPSR to:

- Complete restricted-use data agreements electronically
- Track the status of agreements and generate alerts automatically
- Insert studies and datasets into the contracting system
- Generate agreements based on inputs supplied by the applicant and archive manager and director
- Accept payments by credit card and third-party services such as PayPal
- Generate usage reports for ICPSR, clients, and data providers.

Russel Hathaway and Bryan Beecher are the project managers, and the originating department is Data Sharing for Demographic Research.



Educational Activities

Summer Program

ICPSR's Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, founded in 1963, continues to attract participants and instructors from around the world. This year, attendance hit an all-time high, and the program expanded into new areas of instruction.

Much of the past year's effort has been aimed at increasing the program's visibility, with the dual goals of maintaining high levels of participation and recruiting new instructors.

Highlights of the Summer Program this year included:

- Record-breaking attendance, with 829 participants.
- Instructional staff comprised of 81 instructors and 42 teaching assistants, offering a total of 61 courses.
- Four new three- to five-day statistical workshops: "Data Analysis in Stata," "Time Series Analysis: An Introduction for Social Scientists," "Causal Inference in the Social Sciences: Matching, Propensity Scores, and Other Strategies," and "Categorical Data Analysis: A Second Course."
- Six three- to five-day workshops on substantive topics: "Dyadic Data Analysis: Models and Methods for the Study of Couples," "Using Administrative Data to Conduct Research on Public Early Childhood Programs," "Secondary Analysis of the National Survey of Parents and Youth," "Conducting Research on Recidivism and Reentry," "Health Care Change in the United States: Working With the Community Tracking Study and Health Tracking Surveys," and "Data User Training for the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development."
- A partnership with the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics to offer summer courses on quantitative methodology for social research.
- Expansion of marketing efforts to target several



disciplines, including education, history, linguistics, marketing, nursing, public administration, public health, and public policy.

- Collaboration with several prominent professional associations, engaging in coordinated activities with the American Educational Research Association, the American Political Science Association, and the American Sociological Association.

In addition, Summer Program Director William G. Jacoby was involved in the following grants:

- Co-principal investigator on an NSF-funded CI-TEAM grant to investigate the utility and potential applications of collaborative data tagging software in introductory statistics courses aimed at social scientists.
- Co-principal investigator on an NSF-funded EAGER grant to disseminate teaching materials for methodology courses (e.g., syllabi, lecture notes, examples, and datasets) through a dedicated portal and wiki on the Web.
- Co-principal investigator on an NIH-funded project with the Fenway Institute's Center for Population Research on LGBT Health, coordinating a one-week workshop in Boston on quantitative methodology for researchers interested in human sexuality issues.

Other Educational Programs

Widening the range of disciplines addressed in ICPSR's data-based curricula and bringing data-based lesson plans to new academic audiences were two main goals for ICPSR's educational activities in 2009-2010.

The Online Learning Center, under the direction of Lynette Hoelter, developed several new Data-Driven Learning Guides extending into economics and research methods. The guides will be released in the very near future.

Expanding ICPSR's educational efforts to new audiences

was another focus in fiscal 2009. The TeachingWithData.org group convened three meetings in Ann Arbor including an advisory panel, a group of ICPSR Official Representatives who will be working to promote TeachingWithData.org on their own campuses, and high-school geography, history, and economics teachers to discuss ways to bring data-driven learning exercises to high-school courses.

ICPSR staff also attended several conferences, including the annual conference of the American Association of Community Colleges in Seattle, to raise awareness of our services to that sector of academia.

Membership

Membership Institution Totals by Category

	Total	Increase
Doctoral Research Extensive	138	-
Doctoral Research Intensive	39	-2
Master's Comprehensive	85	-1
B.A. Universities	107	4
Specialized Institutions	8	-
Associate/Community Colleges	9	-
US-Based Associates	20	-
Canadian Institutions	34	-
Other International Institutions	248	-
Total	688	1

Membership Trends

ICPSR membership was essentially unchanged in FY 2010, with a slight increase in B.A. Universities offset by small losses in Doctoral and Masters' institutions.

Web Presence

Members and the general public accessed the ICPSR Web site in large numbers in FY 2010. The site had more than 5 million page views from nearly 500,000 unique visitors. ICPSR and the Summer Program also have a combined 1,000 followers on the social media sites Facebook and Twitter.

Membership *(Continued)*

Official Representatives Meeting

ICPSR held a virtual meeting for Official Representatives (ORs) and Designated Representatives (DRs) in October. The total attendance of 227 (111 ORs and DRs and 116 others) was an increase over the 2007 in-person meeting, which had 181 attendees. More than 150 institutions were represented at the 2009 meeting, compared to 111 in 2007.

Twenty-four webinar sessions were broadcast during the meeting, and the average attendee participated in 3.7 sessions. Some of the most popular webinars were:

- American Community Survey
- Graphical Displays of Quantitative Information
- Online Tools that Support Data Analysis
- Quantitative Literacy: Assessment
- ADD-Health.

A survey of ORs found that 95 percent agreed the virtual meeting was an effective way to share information, and 56 percent said they wouldn't have been able to attend an on-site meeting in Ann Arbor. One of the suggestions from the survey was to hold an on-site meeting at the same time as the virtual one in order to facilitate in-person networking.

Internal discussions are under way to determine how to make the OR meeting in 2011 most effective.

A three-day virtual meeting is planned in 2010 as well with the title "A Virtual Social Science Data Fair."

Membership Survey

ICPSR surveyed ORs and DRs in May 2010 through an online questionnaire, asking questions similar to those in surveys conducted in 2005 and 2008. The response rate was 22 percent, meaning 155 surveys were completed.

Some of the key findings include:

- Libraries continue to be the departmental home to most ORs, and a master's degree in library science is the most common educational background

- Awareness of ICPSR tools is high, but past-year usage trails awareness significantly
- 40 percent of ORs have not used ICPSR data, and 50 percent have held ICPSR workshops/orientation on their campuses
- ORs reported high levels of satisfaction with ICPSR services, especially staff responsiveness
- Acquisition of more international data, quicker updates of existing collections, and retrofitting older studies with statistical software files and SDA components were some of the most frequent suggestions for improvements to ICPSR's data holdings.

The survey results also point to the need for ICPSR to raise awareness of the services we offer, both to ORs and others at member institutions.

ICPSR will take these results into account when developing strategies for acquisition and overall improvement of operations.

Services to Members: Variables Database

Staff continued to add datasets to the Social Science Variables Database, a service that allows variable-level searching across the ICPSR collection.

The SSVD now contains documentation for more than 2,000 studies, representing 40 percent of ICPSR holdings with setup files, not including census data.

Geographic and time-period facets also have been added to the SOLR-based search, as well as a feature that allows searches to be refined by one or more fields in the variables description.

The SSVD was created in 2003 through funding from the National Science Foundation. It uses structured variable documentation in XML format, tagged according to Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) standards.

Financial Reports

ICPSR closed fiscal year 2010 with revenues totaling \$19.1 million, representing a 2 percent increase from fiscal year 2009. Membership dues income, totaling \$3.47 million, rose 4.7 percent since 2009 and contributed 18 percent of the organization's total revenue. Sponsored project awards contributed \$9.8 million and accounted for 51 percent of total revenue. The Summer Program and Investment Income were

\$1.3 million and \$93,000, respectively. ICPSR's overall expenses were \$18.39 million, a 9.8 percent increase from fiscal year 2009.

The organization closed fiscal year 2010 with a surplus of \$754,327. As of June 30, 2010, ICPSR maintains a total fund balance of \$4,161,355.

Revenue	
General Fund Transfers	292,292
General Income	4,730,079
Gifts and Grants	9,850,044
Indirect Cost Recovered	2,842,373
Investment Transactions	92,970
Recovery from Rebilled Items	-
Transfers	116,799
TOTAL REVENUE	\$19,148,425

Expenses	
Staff Salaries	8,708,478
Fringe Benefits	1,862,892
Consultants	70,747
Respondents/Subjects	(120)
Stipends	183,096
Student Aid	(35,000)
General Expenses	1,109,254
Data Processing	1,223,883
Postage	27,709
Telephone	44,515
Subcontract Under 25K	279,962
Subcontract Over 25K	555,888
Travel/Hosting	544,294
Equipment	37,103
Transfers	959,470
Transfers and Distributions	59,556
Indirect Costs	2,842,373
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,394,098

Revenue from Membership and Grants/Contracts		
Fiscal Year	Membership	Grants/Contracts
1989	1,654,781	1,413,092
1990	1,403,297	1,434,630
1991	1,690,709	1,578,484
1992	1,481,713	1,583,566
1993	1,712,031	1,832,865
1994	1,915,000	2,099,753
1995	1,969,783	1,893,296
1996	2,066,499	2,146,822
1997	2,181,661	2,310,968
1998	2,258,676	2,742,252
1999	2,307,856	2,651,291
2000	2,254,963	2,456,876
2001	2,835,791	3,358,040
2002	2,259,161	3,531,002
2003	2,656,468	4,151,227
2004	2,666,290	5,289,738
2005	2,791,442	5,770,366
2006	2,935,642	6,252,685
2007	3,093,900	6,776,695
2008	3,165,587	7,584,089
2009	3,311,411	8,138,624
2010	3,465,415	9,849,709

People

Leaders at ICPSR

JoAnne McFarland, Director of SAMHDA, the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Data Archive

McFarland helped secure the largest award in ICPSR's history: a five-year, \$7.45 million renewal of the SAMHDA archive.



JoAnne McFarland, who has been with ICPSR for 13 years, broke new ground in 2010 when she helped secure the largest award in ICPSR's history: a five-year, \$7.45 million renewal of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive project through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

As Principal Investigator, McFarland guided ICPSR through a competitive rebidding of the project, and said the work to be done under the new contract involves two important new ways of disseminating restricted-use data.

The first is known as a "virtual data enclave" or VDE. Instead of being required to physically travel to ICPSR in Ann Arbor to access restricted-use data, or receive the microdata on removable media such as a CD or through download, users may access the VDE portal to view and analyze data on their own desktop computers. Compared to other models, the VDE provides easier access to restricted-use data provides easier access, and reduces disclosure risk.

Users will be able to access the VDE only after logging in through multiple authentication methods, possibly including biometric identification. Once logged in, users will access restricted-used data on a "virtual desktop," and will be locked out of their own regular desktops.

The VDE will include data processing software such as the Microsoft suite and standard statistical packages, so that users can analyze the data, write papers, produce presentations, and so on within the portal. After a user completes her or his analysis, the paper or presentation file to be extracted from the VDE is placed into a folder for disclosure analysis by SAMHDA staff, a Disclosure Review Board, SAMHSA staff, or some combination of these groups. Once approved, the file is sent to the user.

The second new data access method is Secure Survey Documentation and Analysis or SSDA. The specifications for SSDA were written by McFarland; Chris Maxwell, formerly of ICPSR's National Archive of Criminal Justice Data; and Tom Piazza of the University of California, Berkeley. SSDA is a component of the online analysis tool SDA that was released in the summer of 2009. SSDA provides a mechanism for analysts to access restricted-use data in a public-use mode. That is, restricted-use data can be placed in SSDA for analysis without the possibility of users accessing the microdata. This provides much greater access to restricted-use data than ever before possible. Disclosure risk protection settings within SSDA allow the archivist or funding agency to set restrictions based on output, such as table cell sizes or inputs, or variables that cannot be used in combination with each other. A chief advantage of SSDA is its ease of access.

McFarland was also the principal investigator for the previous round of SAMHDA funding, from 2005 to 2010. She has been at ICPSR since 1997, first as a senior research associate and, since 2000, as an archivist. She has also served as an adjunct and assistant research scientist at the University of Michigan's School of Social Work.

Before coming to ICPSR, McFarland was director of survey research at REDA International and a research associate at Westat, Inc., both in Maryland.

Disclosure risk is one of McFarland's specialties, and she recently presented reports on online data access and restricted-use data to the Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia, and in 2008-2009 led the ICPSR Collection Development staff in disclosure training and certification.

Along with the SAMHDA contract, McFarland is the Principal Investigator for a project to develop best practices for disclosure limitation, including a national survey of National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation grant awardees to determine their level of knowledge of disclosure risk. The project is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

McFarland holds a master of social work degree from the University of Michigan, and graduated magna cum laude from Western Michigan University with a major in psychology.

People

Leaders at ICPSR (continued)

John Garcia, Director, Resource Center for Minority Data, and ICPSR's Director of Community Outreach

"Overall, (ICPSR) has an orientation toward research, exploring different approaches and techniques, and interacting with others who raise questions about research."



John Garcia's association with ICPSR dates back more than 40 years, when he attended the Summer Program as a graduate student in 1969. He has served several stints as an instructor of a seminar on Latino Research Issues in the Summer Program since then, and since August 2009 has been a visiting professor and director of the Resource Center for Minority Data.

This summer, Garcia agreed to have "visiting" removed from his title to become a permanent part of ICPSR. He said that through the years, ICPSR has provided a productive and challenging place to learn, collaborate, and investigate survey research and data archiving.

"Overall, an orientation towards research, exploring different approaches and techniques, and interacting with others who raise questions about research and challenges of conducting good research have been key benefits" of his long-term involvement with ICPSR, Garcia said.

Garcia's goals for the RCMD, whose mission is to assist in the public dissemination and preservation of quality data on minority populations, are three-fold:

- Acquisition of new datasets, with particular attention to studies that include under-represented minorities such as Asian Americans, Arab Americans, and Native Americans
- Increased visibility and use of the RCMD Web site
- Securing outside grant funding to augment ICPSR's investment in RCMD.

After an inventory of RMDC data revealed specific gaps in its holdings, Garcia developed a plan to add to the archive, with priorities for acquisition focused on data about the above-mentioned groups, and the substantive areas of immigration, economic status and progress, and crime and victimization. Direct contact with principal investigators is a key strategy towards meeting the acquisition goal, as is

the review of journal articles for relevant datasets.

Efforts to boost the archive's visibility include messages to research groups' listservs, presentations at conferences, and one-on-one interviews with principal investigators who have recently deposited their studies. RCMD is seeking information from the PIs on the origins of their research interests and experiences with data sharing.

In terms of outside funding, Garcia said RCMD is planning at least two grant submissions in the next few months.

"ICPSR made an institutional commitment to create and support RCMD, and that is our base on which we can expand through external funding," Garcia said.

Garcia's areas of research include minority group politics with a specialization in Latinos; urban politics; and survey research design.

His work at ICPSR and its parent organization, the Institute for Social Research, has been wide-ranging. After his initial experience with what he called the "total immersion" of the Summer Program in 1969, he returned in 1977 as part of the National Chicano Research Network at the Survey Research Center at ISR for a two-week seminar on research approaches to the Chicano population. The next summer, he was part of the first U.S. contingent to participate the Sampling Workshop for Foreign Statisticians taught by Leslie Kish.

In the late 1980s, Garcia helped add the Latino National Political Survey sample to the Panel Survey of Income Dynamics.

Garcia established and taught a research workshop on quantitative research on Latinos in the early 1990s, and since 2005 served as a co-instructor for the current Summer Program workshop on Methodological Issues of Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity. This past summer, Garcia was the principal instructor of that workshop.

He held various administrative appointments at the University of Arizona beginning in 1982, including service as head of the department of Political Science and acting director of the Mexican American Studies and Research Center. He officially retired from University of Arizona in August 2010 to accept the tenured position at ICPSR.

He has a Bachelor's degree in government from the University of Texas, a Master's in political science from the University of Houston, and a Ph.D. in government from Florida State University.

People

Leaders at ICPSR (continued)

Christopher Ward, Project Manager, Integrated Fertility Survey Series

"What appealed to me most was that the project seemed so novel and challenging ... The task seemed daunting at first."



The prospect of harmonizing 20,000 variables in 10 studies conducted over five decades might send some social scientists running in the opposite direction -- but the challenge of the Integrated Fertility Survey Series is exactly what attracted Project Manager Christopher Ward to ICPSR.

Ward first learned about IFSS at the ISR Summer Program in 2008, from instructors Lynette Hoelter and Felicia LeClere when he was taking their Introduction to Survey Research Techniques course. The IFSS project, funded through the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, involves harmonizing data from the Growth of American Families, National Fertility Surveys and National Surveys of Family Growth dating back to the 1950s. The first harmonized dataset was released this year.

"What appealed to me most was that the project seemed so novel and challenging," Ward said. "The task seemed daunting at first."

Even such basic data as survey respondents' ancestry highlight the challenges inherent in trying to harmonize such a large amount of data. For example, the Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 only asked respondents about Western European ancestry -- it was only in later surveys that other places of ancestry like Latin America and Asia were included as response options in the survey questions.

"The glaring problem we encountered was how to account for respondents of, say, South Asian ancestry in early

studies. In other words, how can we make comparisons on South Asian respondents when they were not identified in some studies?" Ward said.

The IFSS group, consisting of LeClere, Hoelter, Peter Granda, Jim Lepkowski, and Principal Investigator Pam Smock, developed ad hoc rules for harmonizing variables, which were then formalized into a framework for examining each subsequent variable. After the first dataset was released, Ward ran a statistical assessment of the validity of variables measuring ancestry and presented his findings in a poster at the 2010 conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

"The basic finding was that harmonized variables measuring Western European, Eastern European, and African ancestry were reasonably highly valid over time, but variables measuring Latin American and Asian ancestry were less so," Ward said. "This is largely a function of the uneven measurement of respondent ancestry in some years, particularly in early studies. The problem dovetails into some of the research we have begun conducting on the data."

Establishing a model to estimate "harmonization error," or the degree to which the harmonization process contributes to errors in data, is one of the next steps in Ward's research, he said. He presented a paper on the concept, which would be an adjunct to the total survey error model, at the International Comparative Design and Implementation Workshop in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Ward, originally from Cheyenne, Wyoming, earned a Master's degree in higher education and a certificate of graduate studies in survey methodology from University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College.

But his path to ICPSR has not been entirely traditional. His degree at Swarthmore was in a self-designed major called "Francophone Studies," based on his interest in two Senegalese film directors he was exposed to during a semester abroad in Grenoble, France. While in Grenoble, he also attended the Dauphi Cirque circus school.

Looking Ahead

Director Search

ICPSR completed fiscal 2009-2010 under the leadership of Acting Director George Alter, who was named to the position after previous Director Myron Gutmann took a position at the National Science Foundation in November 2009. The process of finding a permanent leader has begun with the hiring of a search firm and creation of a search committee, with the goal of filling the position between January and August 2011.

The search committee includes five members of the ICPSR Council, two ICPSR researchers, and representation from the Institute for Social Research, ICPSR's parent department at the University of Michigan. J. Robert Scott Executive Search of Boston also has been retained.

Data Stewardship Initiative

The Institute for Social Research and ICPSR kicked off a new Data Stewardship initiative in May, with the goal of identifying good practices and sharing them within ISR and with the larger data collection community.

The initiative will set up working groups on various aspects of data stewardship, with the first focusing on documentation. Under the leadership of ICPSR Assistant Director Mary Vardigan, other workgroups will examine digital preservation, access and dissemination, and disclosure risks.

Former University of Michigan Provost Theresa Sullivan,

now President of the University of Virginia, spoke at the initiative's kickoff event, and emphasized the need for such an effort. Sullivan was a member of the National Academies committee that drafted the 2009 report *"Ensuring the Integrity, Accessibility, and Stewardship of Research Data in the Digital Age."*

She said efforts like the Data Stewardship initiative are crucial to answering four major questions: how should stewardship work; who owns the data and determines access; who is responsible for preservation; and how is it all going to be funded.

TRAC Certification

ICPSR participated in a test TRAC (*Trustworthy Repositories Audit & Certification*) audit in 2006, just before TRAC was released for community use in 2007. TRAC is a community standard, pending approval as ISO 16363 in the coming year, that assists organizations responsible for preserving digital content to demonstrate their compliance with prevailing community standards and practice.

In 2010, ICPSR is undergoing a more detailed TRAC review using a project management technique that assigns roles to ICPSR groups to gather the evidence required for a TRAC audit. This phase of the TRAC review, under the supervision of Digital Preservation Officer Nancy McGovern, will be completed in early fiscal 2010-2011, though TRAC compliance requires ongoing updates.