

ICPSR Council Minutes

March 7-8, 2013

Attendees

Council Members: Rogelio Saenz (Chair), Christopher H. Achen, Marilyn Andrews, Tony N. Brown, G. Sayeed Choudhury (by phone), Paul N. Courant, Catherine A. Fitch, John Fox (by phone), and Gregory N. Price

ICPSR Staff: JD Alford, George Alter, Rita Bantom, Shuming Bao, Bryan Beecher, Dieter Burrell, Linda Detterman, Wendi Fornoff, John Garcia, Peter Granda, Lynette Hoelter, William Jacoby, Susan Jekielek, Jared Lyle, John Marcotte, Dan Meisler, Asmat Noori, JoAnne McFarland O'Rourke, Michelle Overholser, Amy Pienta, David Thomas, Mary Vardigan, and Diane Winter

Visitors: Peter Doorn, Director, Data Archiving and Networked Services, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences; Yukio Maeda, Professor of Political Science, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo; Hans Jørgen Marker, Director, Swedish National Data Service, and President, Council of European Social Science Data Archives; and Matthew Woollard, Director, UK Data Service

Director's Report

Minutes from the March 2013 Council meeting were reviewed, voted on, and passed without changes.

ICPSR Director George Alter welcomed everyone to the March 2013 Council meeting and introduced meeting visitors Hans Jørgen Marker, Yukio Maeda, Matthew Woollard, and Peter Doorn. Alter also introduced new staff member Susan Jekielek, Director, Education and Childcare Data Archive and Jared Lyle, who had assumed the new position of Director of Curation Services

Alter began his Director's Report by noting that ICPSR membership currently stood at 737 with 41 members added and five dropped since the last meeting. The FY2013 membership revenues were forecast to be \$3,510,000, of which 94 percent had been collected. Six institutions from underrepresented constituencies returned to ICPSR membership under the "Welcome Back" initiative.

ICPSR's Web site activity continued to be strong. According to Google Analytics, from July 1, 2012, through January 31, 2013, there were 317,282 visitors from the U.S., 13,932 from Canada, 11,071 from China, and 10,382 from the UK. On the social media marketing side there were over 1,006 followers on Twitter, 687 Facebook fans, 68 YouTube subscribers, and 1,396 email subscribers.

Alter reminded Council members that ICPSR was currently requesting nominations for the ICPSR Council. Nominations were needed by April 19 for the new Council cycle beginning in 2014. Nominations were also being solicited for the Warren E. Miller Award for Meritorious Service to the Social Sciences and the William H. Flanigan Award for Distinguished Service as an ICPSR Official Representative. The nominations were due by March 26.

Turning to the budget, Alter said that the current forecast for the FY2013 budget was that ICPSR would break even, despite the fact that we had predicted a \$653K deficit when the budget was approved last June. In terms of the FY2014 budget, the projection was for a total budget of \$19.2M, based on University accounting. The actual number is closer to \$15.4M. While ICPSR was showing an expected deficit of \$728K, this was a conservative estimate taking into account only those sources of revenue that the organization was certain of receiving.

Alter reviewed the proposals that had been funded since October 2012 and highlighted the following:

- Collaborative Research: Metadata Portal for the Social Sciences (National Science Foundation)
- Collecting, Archiving and Publicly Sharing Data for RWJF's Health and Medical Care Archive (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
- Factors in Aging: Development Research Resources (National Institute on Aging)
- Technical Assistance to ARRA Complex Patient Grantees (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Prime with Abt Associates, Inc.)
- HIV Open Data Project Evaluation (AHRQ Prime with National Opinion Research Center)

Alter reported that the top five studies (measured in number of downloads) released in the previous six months (as of March 4, 2013) were:

- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), 1994-2008 (DSDR)
- National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2010 (SAMHDA)
- Chinese Household Income Project, 2002 (DSDR)
- General Social Survey, 1972-2010 [Cumulative File] (ICPSR)
- National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2011 (SAMHDA)

Alter also mentioned that the 2013 Summer Program was on track for another record year with 79 courses, 41 four-week courses, and 38 short workshops. New remote locations were being added: Montreal Canada; New York, New York; and Washington, DC.

Turning to outreach, Alter reported on noteworthy activities since the last meeting. ICPSR had recently conducted 11 webinars with over 680 attendees, and a new edition of the *ICPSR Bulletin* was published. ICPSR also presented a successful series of events during the winter to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr.. Open to the public, these events were organized by Dan Meisler, Fillippo Stargell, Jacqui Broughton, Johanna Bleckman, Mary McEniry, Melanie Panyard, Rita Bantom, Sue Hodge, and John Garcia (Chair) with significant assistance by David Thomas and Abay Israel.

Alter reviewed several new projects in testing that had been released recently as beta versions for review. These included:

Crosstab Assignment Builder. Creates streamlined online analysis objects for student assignments.

- *Data Merge Tool*. Combines different levels of aggregation (e.g., individuals, households, and communities) into a single dataset.
- *Crosstab Creator*. Makes Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA online analysis system) easier for novice users by focusing on variable selection.
- *Search Enhancements*. Includes “Variable Relevance” sort option. Separating search terms with commas returns studies with one column per variable.
- *Variables in Context*. Highlights the current variable in a list of all variables. Hovering over a variable label reveals question text.

In the near future as part of the Metadata Portal project, ICPSR will be rolling out new tools based on rich DDI metadata, such as question banks, automated codebooks, harmonization tools, and question flow graphics and counts.

Alter also reviewed the challenges related to the recently-announced federal budget cuts. In the short term, there may be adjustments to some current grants and contracts; in the long term, lower funding means that grants will be more competitive.

However, the recent OSTP memo on expanding public access to the results of federally funded research is a positive development and could provide new opportunities for ICPSR. Alter underscored what he views as ICPSR’s strengths in terms of providing data access:

- Curated data with rich metadata
- Digital preservation
- Bibliography and citation
- Confidential data
- Training
- Community

Plenary Session

The plenary session focused on an overview of the new ICPSR Strategic Plan, with Mary Vardigan, Linda Detterman, Lynette Hoelter, and Diane Winter presenting.

Background and Process

Staff reported that the planning process began at the ICPSR Council meeting in March 2012, when Council recommended that ICPSR revise its Strategic Plan given that many of the objectives in the Plan had been accomplished and given that the data landscape had changed in significant ways since the first Plan was put into place in 2008.

After that meeting, ICPSR formed an internal Strategic Plan Task Force consisting of staff representing all areas of the organization and including Council Chair Rogelio Saenz. ICPSR also contracted with Cambridge Concord Associates, a consulting firm, to guide the strategic planning effort. The Task Force met with the consultants several times in both face-to-face and virtual settings. The consultants also met with all ICPSR staff and conducted some research with ICPSR stakeholders, asking about the organization's strengths and the types of strategic directions that ICPSR might pursue.

At the end of 2012 the consultants delivered a draft Strategic Plan Framework with four strategic directions. At that point, smaller task teams were formed to refine and edit the directions; each team included a Council member. At the suggestion of the consultants, each team also discussed and drafted initial tactics, desired outcomes, and a set of organizational needs that would be required to fulfill each of the strategies. While this supporting information is not included in the Plan itself, it will be very useful when ICPSR reaches the stage of implementing the Plan. The consultants consolidated the information provided by the task teams and condensed it into the version of the Plan distributed to Council. It was noted that this version was a draft and ICPSR expected to elicit more input from Council, staff, and Official Representatives before finalizing the Plan in June.

Mission Statement

During the year ICPSR also developed a new mission statement more broadly focused on the social and behavioral sciences:

ICPSR advances and expands social and behavioral research, acting as a global leader in data stewardship and providing rich data resources and responsive educational opportunities for present and future generations.

Strategic Directions

Staff outlined the four Strategic Plan directions:

- Enhancing Our Global Leadership
- New and Responsive Products and Services
- Educating Effective and Responsible Data Users
- Developing Organizational Capacity for Leadership and Innovation

Each direction has a set of strategies designed to support the direction. It was noted that the directions explicitly contribute to the mission, and there is overlap among the strategies, which is intentional to ensure synergy and effective coordination.

Discussion

In relation to Direction 1, which focuses on global leadership, Council asked about potential partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa. Staff mentioned a partnership with the University of Cape

Town to form an ICPSR federation and work with the INDEPTH network, a demographic surveillance program in Africa and south Asia. Additional potential partnerships in Asia and Latin America were discussed, including population associations in those areas. It was pointed out that having a presence at meetings and actually sponsoring meetings can help to foster relationships. In terms of acquiring data, it is important to be sensitive to preferences for data access; countries often want to control their own data.

Council also asked whether the Plan adequately addressed diversity, and staff responded that the intention was to weave this important principle through all of the directions in an organic way. In terms of products and services, questions were raised about SDA and whether we might make improvements to it to handle new types of analyses.

A gap was noted in Direction 3, Educating Effective and Responsible Data Users. Education needs to be provided not only for data users but also for data creators to ensure that research data are collected and managed according to best practices.

Council requested more time to discuss the Plan with the full Council after the meeting since several Council members were not in attendance.

Budget and Policy Committee

Council: Rogelio Saenz (Chair), Marilyn Andrews, Tony N. Brown, Paul N. Courant, and Gregory N. Price
Staff: JD Alford, George Alter, Rita Bantom, and Diane Winter

I. Financial Reports

Staff reviewed the financial reports with the committee. The first draft of the FY2014 budget was presented, and staff noted that a lot of effort had gone into refining the Membership portion. A new process was developed for the FY2014 budget wherein the leadership responsible for the various portions of the Membership budget provided preliminary budget figures and ideas for new initiatives. The leadership met on three occasions to discuss priorities and refinements to arrive at the current draft Membership budget.

The current draft of the overall FY2014 budget reflects \$18.6M in revenue and \$19.2M in expenses, resulting in a \$728K deficit. The Membership FY2014 draft budget anticipates revenue of \$3.6M and expenses of \$3.73M, a deficit of \$131K. The Official Representatives Meeting and OR Sabbatical opportunity are new expenses for FY2014.

Staff reminded the committee that ICPSR's budget methodology incorporates a conservative approach; sponsored projects are only budgeted if awarded or if staff are confident in the project being awarded. Staff provided an estimate of the overall budget outcome if additional awards were received during the fiscal year, as is typically the case. Staff also discussed with the committee the challenges and opportunities around sponsored funding for FY2014. A growing number of sponsored awards are coming from nonfederal sources for which indirect cost

recovery is significantly lower, and there are envisioned cuts in federal funding due to sequestering. At the same time there are opportunities in data archiving from new federal regulations.

Staff explained that the “I/O split” expense on the indirect costs budget represents ICPSR’s share of ISR Central Services. The I/O expenses are increasing in FY2014 due to the construction of the ISR Thompson addition, an expense for all ISR centers. The five ISR centers pay their proportionate share of all centralized services calculated on their respective expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures of all centers.

Council was asked by staff to assist in setting priorities to balance the Membership budget for FY2014. Council asked if reserves could be used in the short term, and staff responded that this is possible. Council requested a report of commitments against the current reserves for further discussion of sustainability of the overall budget.

The committee was updated on the current year forecasts for the overall ICPSR budget and the 2012 Summer Program calendar year outcome. The committee also discussed development and outreach activities and possible outcomes.

II. Personnel Update

Staff reviewed the personnel reports and provided information on the demographic composition of ICPSR staff.

III. Diversity Plan Update

Staff reviewed the report with the committee, highlighting the progress to date with the Diversity Strategic Plan, specifically as it relates to training and recruiting staff.

IV. Strategic Plan Update

There was no discussion of the Strategic Plan as this was covered during the Plenary.

V. Governance

Staff reported that the Nominations and Award Committees were currently drafting the call for nominations for the Miller and Flanigan awards.

Collection Development Committee

Council: Christopher H. Achen (Chair), G. Sayeed Choudhury (phone), Catherine A. Fitch, and John Fox (phone)

Guests: Peter Doorn, Yukio Maeda, Hans Jørgen Marker, and Matthew Woollard

Staff: Nathan Adams, Linda Detterman, Peter Granda, and Amy Pienta

I. Data Hosting Service: Final Council Recommendation

A. Background

Last fall, concern was raised regarding whether ICPSR met the NSF requirement for open access to federally funded research data since some of ICPSR's holdings are available to members only.

To ensure that ICPSR is considered an appropriate destination for the preservation and public dissemination of federally-sponsored research, staff was challenged to chart specifications for the development of a "self-archiving" system, currently referred to as the ICPSR Data Hosting Service. Council fully supported this initiative during its October 2012 meeting and requested an update on progress during its March 2013 meeting.

B. Status

The ICPSR Data Hosting Service task force met weekly after the October Council meeting. The primary steps taken included:

1. Define the audiences who would use the service (PIs and their research teams) as well as those who would refer data depositors to the service (funding agencies)
 - a. Identify what actual users (individuals interfacing with the technology) of a system would require and how they would want to interact
2. Identify data sharing systems or technologies that might compete and investigate their approaches
3. Define requirements for the system
 - a. Describe a "base-model" system that ICPSR could launch and then enhance in later phases. Describe the minimally acceptable requirements.
 - b. Identify requirements for Phase II and beyond
4. Research and describe how restricted data acceptance and dissemination might work in a "self-archiving" environment both early on and in a later development phase

- a. Importantly, research issues of risk management (liability) when it comes to disclosure
5. Outline perceived costs of maintaining a system and investigate fees to cover maintenance costs, both coming from additional member fees and from non-member usage fees at the deposit and usage end
6. Identify data policy issues related to the self-archiving environment and analyze impact on existing data policies

C. Council Discussion

Staff mentioned that they had reviewed other systems (e.g., Dataverse, Figshare, Dryad) that provided similar capabilities but decided to pursue a basic, in-house model for Phase I. Phase I was expected to have the following features:

- Easy depositor upload
- Possible limitation on acceptable file types
- Ability to upload audio and video objects
- Acceptance of future Publication-Related Archive deposits
- Maximum file size uploads
- Registration of DOI automatically
- Confirmation of deposit
- Ability to accept depositor metadata

How to deal with restricted data deposits, the costs to maintain the system, and possible fees for users had not yet been determined.

Council members discussed whether this service should be free to members but at a fee to non-members. There was also a caution that, because of the nature of this service in which ICPSR is doing no processing or checking of incoming files, consideration should be given to not using the word “archive” to describe the service.

Staff demonstrated the current prototype online showing both the upload of objects and the ability to supply accompanying metadata. In addition, the application also permits the depositor to perform a significant amount of inline editing in the web forms. The Committee had few specific questions about the application itself but spent far more time discussing the legal and economic implications of such a service. Questions of liability were raised about the possible content of these deposits. The Committee advised a careful review with UM counsel about clarifying all possible legal threats before such a service is implemented. There was also extensive discussion about how this service would affect the ICPSR membership model.

During the Committee’s report to the full Council, the emphasis of the discussion was on how this new service would be paid for and on clarifying the legal issues. Is ICPSR thinking about becoming a ‘fee-for-service’ organization? Should ICPSR charge members for additional services such as hosting the confidential data produced by their research faculty? Council asked

staff to pay careful attention to these issues and report back in June with a financial plan including cost and revenue estimates.

II. Strategic Plan Update

Staff updated the Committee on Strategic Plan activities regarding Direction 1 (Leadership). The Institute for Social Research is exploring the possibility of partnering with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on some survey projects. Located in New Delhi, NCAER has done pioneering research work in areas of applied economics with an emphasis on policy analysis and application of modern quantitative techniques to development issues, regional development and planning, household income, consumption, savings /investment, and energy. Two visitors from the Institute visited ICPSR in December and expressed an interest in collaborating with us with regard to their data archiving needs. This organization was founded in 1956 and has collected data throughout their existence. They want to hire data archivists of their own and were interested in possible training opportunities for their staff as they seek to meet their preservation challenges. George visited NCAER in January and gave a research talk to the staff. Further contact may follow this summer.

With regard to Direction III (Broadened Collections), ICPSR staff met officials from the American Psychological Association (APA) in August to discuss possible archiving services that ICPSR might provide to them in conjunction with a new electronic journal that they plan to launch early next year. Any articles published in this journal, *Archives of Scientific Psychology*, will be free and open to the public. Authors must also provide the data that they used for their analyses when they submit their articles to the journal. ICPSR submitted a proposal to the Association for a data hosting service that authors can use to archive their datasets with ICPSR. The proposal was accepted by APA and work is expected to begin in late March.

The Committee approved ICPSR involvement in these initiatives.

III. Research Data Alliance

Staff also reported about current and upcoming activities associated with the Research Data Alliance (RDA). The purpose of the RDA is to accelerate international data-driven innovation and discovery by facilitating research data sharing and exchange, use and re-use, standards harmonization, and discoverability. This will be achieved through the development and adoption of infrastructure, policy, practice, standards, and other deliverables.

The Research Data Alliance activity began in earnest in August 2012 with the establishment of an international Steering Group by funding agencies in the US, EU, and Australia. The Steering Group was charged with developing the RDA by defining its charter and organizational structures, and with promoting its aims and marshaling support for its activities. This effort was currently under way with the goal of presenting a proposal to the first RDA Plenary meeting later in March. Component groups within the RDA were currently being established, including Working Groups, an initial Council, and Secretariat staff.

The intention was to progressively elect or appoint members for all component organizational groups as the RDA moves to full operation. Governance issues would be discussed at the coming RDA Launch and Plenary Meeting in Gothenburg on March 18-20, 2013. ICPSR would be present at this meeting and were participating in a number of the working groups.

Council voiced support for ICPSR involvement in this activity.

Member Services Committee

Council: Catherine A. Fitch (Chair), Marilyn Andrews, Tony N. Brown, and Rogelio Saenz

Guests: Hans Jørgen Marker and Shuming Bao

Staff: Linda Detterman, Lynette Hoelter, Dan Meisler, and David Thomas

I. Strategic Plan Progress

Staff updated Council on the progress of the Strategic Plan for Member Services. As a means to “sustain membership, improve services, and expand the value” of ICPSR membership, staff noted the following activities dedicated to this action item within the strategic plan: attendance at several conferences; broadcast of 11+ webinars; planning for the 2013 Biennial OR Meeting; communications including the Autumn and Winter DataBytes; and participation on social media platforms.

Lastly, the objective “build the data community and advocacy” was satisfied over the past few months by several workshops/sessions on ICPSR in education at various professional meetings and the Welcome Back initiative that welcomed back six former member institutions in the underrepresented institutions area.

II. Membership Activity and Utilization

Linda Detterman reported that membership continued to show net positive growth this fiscal year and had reached the 737 member level. Receipt of membership dues was slightly ahead of previous fiscal years; ICPSR met its FY2013 membership revenue forecast in March. Utilization (data) for FY2013 to date as measured by the Unique Users count (the count of active downloaders) looked to be on par compared to FY2012. Since July 1, 2012, over 277,900 people visited the ICPSR Web site, spending an average of 5.13 minutes on the site.

ICPSR had been active in the communications area, releasing both Autumn and Winter DataBytes e-newsletters since Council last met. ICPSR currently had 1,006 Twitter followers, 687 Facebook fans, 68 YouTube channel subscribers, and almost 1,400 subscribers to its subscribed email lists.

III. Membership Pricing Analysis

Membership fees for FY2015 (July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015) must be posted no later than July 1, 2013. The committee reviewed several alternatives for setting FY2015 fees and concluded the following:

- Based on the FY2014 budget forecast and the desire to continue to use funds for research and development and launch of data products like those demonstrated in the Director's report, the committee recommended setting fees that garnered approximately \$3,800,000 in billed invoices.
The committee generally supported an approach whereby Extensive universities receive a slightly greater increase than other members due to the significantly greater use of data services by Research I universities.

During the reporting out period, Council suggested ICPSR consider small increases every year versus larger increases that are held constant for a period of years. Noting this will add administrative burden for ICPSR staff and its members, staff will present this approach as an option for the June meeting.

- Council also recommended that, as has been done in every communication of an increase in fees in the past, we communicate the benefits and accomplishments that increasing fees are supporting.
- Council requested a review of the reserve fund to assist in its review and finalizing of membership pricing during the June 2013 meeting.

IV. ICPSR Membership Outreach

ICPSR has been active with respect to outreach both on the University of Michigan campus and beyond. Staff summarized the 11 conferences attended and 11 webinars broadcast since October 2012. Staff also described the MLK event that was conducted on the University of Michigan campus.

As part of its ongoing support for a diverse representation of members within the Consortium, the membership area developed a program whereby former members of ICPSR were invited back to ICPSR via a complimentary membership for 18 months. The program was announced to 12 institutions on November 6, 2012. The institutions and status of the offer are exhibited below:

- Dillard University - Connected
- West Virginia University - Connected
- Jackson State University - Connected
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University - Connected
- Xavier University of Louisiana - Connected
- Morgan State University - Connected
- New Mexico State University Extensive – Intended to connect
- Harris-Stowe State University - No response

- North Carolina Central University - No response
- New Mexico Highlands University - No response
- Fort Valley State University - Responded but no action taken
- Cheyney University of Pennsylvania - Responded but no action taken

Staff developed an intensive orientation series of February webcasts with the goal to get Welcome Back participants oriented and using ICPSR data services quickly. The webcasts were offered to all members of the Consortium and the public. While attendance was solid across the six webcasts with 268 seats filled, 186 institutions reached, and show rates of over 65 percent, attendance by the Welcome Back institutions was sporadic with the exception of Morgan State University (attended all sessions).

Detterman noted that planning had begun for the 2013 OR Meeting to be held October 9-11, 2013. Staff presented an overview of the proposed sessions and workshops. The meeting program was being developed from OR/DR response to a survey conducted last October regarding desired content/training for the meeting. Content would be finalized in March and presented to the OR/DR community in April such that registration could begin shortly thereafter.

V. Data Hosting Initiative

Staff commented briefly on the data hosting initiative, noting that at a minimum there would be a discount for members in any pricing model considered. While a revenue model was still under analysis at the time of the meeting, it was expected that paying for this service would require additional funding (that is, it could not be supported entirely by membership funding alone as part of the current membership dues funding model).

VI. Update on RCMD Activities

Staff reviewed activities associated with the Resource Center for Minority Data (RCMD), where the current focus is to increase the availability and awareness of data focused on underrepresented populations. Recent accomplishments included:

- Preparation and execution of the REU-funded ICPSR summer internship
- Continued work on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Disparities Workshop
- Planning for the Gates Millennium Scholars and Washington Achievers Data Workshop
- Assisting with the Welcome Back initiative
- Proposal for an OR Sabbatical opportunity for those interested in developing tools or modules directed toward undergraduate instruction
- Traveling and outreach activities

VII. Update on Instructional Resource Activities

Staff reviewed activities associated with the Instructional Resources, in particular, the Data-Driven Learning Guides (DDLGs) being developed under the auspices of this unit, the Teaching with Data initiative, and several smaller projects. Staff reported that use of DDLGs remained high and a new guide, “American Identity and Immigrant Resentment,” was recently posted.

Staff also noted some technical updates to the guides. Other initiatives reviewed:

- Summer Internship Program – approximately 180 completed applications for 6 positions
- Student Paper Competition – 21 entries were received, an increase from previous years
- IR Outreach – IR was participating in several regional conferences, including sessions on the program for the Southern Political Science Association, Pacific Sociological Association, North Central Sociological Association, and Southwestern Social Science Association meetings

Preservation and Access Committee

Council: G. Sayeed Choudhury (Chair, by Google+ Hangout) and Paul N. Courant

Guests: Peter Doorn and Matthew Woollard

Staff: Susan Jekielek (by Google+ Hangout), Jared Lyle, Matthew Richardson, and Mary Vardigan

I. Strategic Plan Update

As recommended by Council and outlined in the Strategic Plan, staff were continuing to play a leadership role through conference presentations and attendance, including (recently and upcoming) the International Digital Curation Conference (DCC) meeting in Amsterdam, the Research Data Access and Preservation (RDAP) meeting in Baltimore, and the Research Data Alliance (RDA) in Gothenburg, Sweden. ICPSR is involved in four of the RDA working groups (legal, metadata, audit and certification, and data publication), and will be hosting a Data Seal of Approval meeting in October.

ICPSR staff noted that these activities have been useful and beneficial to the organization, but the number of invitations to participate is increasing so there is a need to be selective. ICPSR has set up a leadership account to ensure that ICPSR participates in the most important meetings or conferences.

II. Sloan Project Update

For the recently-awarded Sloan grant, ICPSR has confirmed attendance of an impressive, diverse array of social science journal editors and data repositories for two meetings in June. Staff to the project will also convene a group of funders. This breadth of participation raises some interesting opportunities based on outcomes (e.g., new courses for the Summer Program) but also some pre-planning points such as understanding (or at least temporary agreement) of jargon, terms, vocabulary, etc. ICPSR has recently announced the Challenge Grants program, also funded by the Sloan Foundation. Once proposals have been received, it will be worthwhile to consider what success would look like for this program. An additional component of the Sloan project is an examination of non-disclosure agreements with an aim toward promulgating or sharing best practices.

III. Data Curation Course Update

ICPSR is offering this course for the second time, building upon its success from the first course offered last year.

The committee also discussed new possibilities for the evolving data science track within the Summer Program. Council emphasized the importance of identifying an audience(s) before developing new courses. They suggested complementing or leveraging the School of Information curriculum (e.g., practicums related to existing courses) and repackaging existing week-long courses into smaller one- or two-day chunks. Another suggestion was to develop a course around hands-on experience with actual data, perhaps focused on the commercial sector, to create new tools. The committee also discussed possible new courses related to state and local governments' use and sharing of data. Government data, it was noted, especially administrative data, are very useful but are often messy. ICPSR could provide training for government workers to make these data more useful for researchers. Council also suggested that a course on combining social science survey data with biomarkers would be a natural fit for the Summer Program.

IV. New ICPSR Functionality

Matthew Richardson demonstrated several new Web site features/services, including:

- Custom Crosstab Creator
- Data Merge Tool
- Search Enhancements for Researchers
- Variables in Context

V. Updates from Washington

Sayeed Choudhury reported on his recent week in Washington, DC, where he testified before Congress about data sharing, access, and preservation; spoke with congressional staffers; and attended a Board on Research Data and Information (BRDI) meeting.

Regarding Congress, Choudhury noted that both political sides seem committed to open access to research data, even if underlying motives appeared to vary. The congressional staffers asked very specific and practical questions, underscoring how serious they appear to be about providing access to data.

The recent Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memo was a big topic of discussion. It was emphasized in DC that this is a memo, not a directive, although all agencies seem to be taking this seriously. Agencies need to come up with a plan in six months (not actually take action), and the plan has to be carried out with current funding. The memo emphasized "data required for validating results," but the meaning of this statement is still unclear.

The Preservation and Access Committee members discussed what ICPSR can do in response to the OSTP memo. ICPSR can contact and produce materials for current funders, advising them

about data sharing policies. For the upcoming data hosting system, ICPSR can be sure to weigh unintended consequences of open access (i.e., non-social scientists depositing data with ICPSR to get a DOI), as well as offering tools and services beyond the basic open access level.

Summer Program Committee

Council: Gregory N. Price (Chair) and John Fox (by phone)

Guest: Yukio Maeda

Staff: Dieter Burrell, Henry Heitowit, and William Jacoby

Staff reported on efforts to achieve the objectives articulated in the ICPSR Strategic Plan. Good progress was made in achieving all three of the strategies under Strategic Direction IV: First, the Summer Program continues to grow and innovate. In addition to a number of new workshops, workshops will be offered at three new remote locations in 2013 (Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Fordham University, New York, NY; and Howard University, Washington, DC). Second, the instructional staff continues to expand, both in size and diversity. Third, the Summer Program continues to try innovative activities to extend its reach to new audiences and constituencies. 2012 was the first year of a five-year plan for promoting diversity within the entire Summer Program community. Ongoing challenges involve the economic environment, the need to open communication channels to new constituencies, and the difficulties inherent in recruiting new faculty.

The Committee discussed massive open online courses (or MOOCs). Many news items in both popular and specialized media outlets suggest that this course delivery format has the potential to bring major changes to higher education and advanced training efforts. The Committee agreed that the Summer Program should look into the positive and negative aspects of MOOCs. As an action item for the June 2014 Council meeting, the Committee instructed staff to investigate MOOCs and evaluate their potential and feasibility as a course delivery format for the ICPSR Summer Program.

The Committee discussed the post-MIP scholarships, in which large federation memberships are allowed two fee-waiver scholarships for the Summer Program. Actual usage has been intermittent. The Committee decided that, starting in 2014, there would be a maximum of four post-MIP scholarships and that these would be made available to under-resourced member institutions. The decision was forwarded to the full Council for approval and was endorsed.

The Committee discussed a proposal from the National Black Graduate Student Association (NBGSA) for two fee-waiver scholarships to the Summer Program. The recipients would be selected by the NBGSA Executive Council, and they would be given the title of NBGSA Fellows. The goal of this scholarship program is to encourage additional participation in the ICPSR Summer Program by students of color. The Committee supported the creation of the NBGSA scholarships for a period of three years, beginning in 2013. This decision was forwarded to the full Council for approval and was endorsed.

The Committee discussed a proposal from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) to establish the Hanes Walton, Jr. Award for Quantitative Methods Training. This award would provide two fee-waiver scholarships for each of three years (starting in 2013) to enable women and minority faculty and graduate students, especially those at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, to attend the ICPSR Summer Program. The Committee supported this proposal and forwarded it to the full Council for approval and was endorsed.

Action Items from the March 2013 Council Meeting

Summer Program

1. Encourage the Summer Program to explore the feasibility of MOOCs and online courses with consideration to the resources required -- by March 2014 (Adopted)
2. Replace post-MIPS scholarships with a total of four scholarships targeting under-resourced ICPSR member institutions for the 2014 Summer Program. The Summer Program Staff and the Membership group will develop criteria for these awards. (Adopted)
3. Recommend providing fee waivers for proposals from the National Black Graduate Student Association (2) for three years and the National Council of Black Political Scientists (2) to honor Hanes Walton for three years. (Adopted)