

## ICPSR and Proxy Servers

ICPSR does not recommend the use of proxy servers to access our site. ICPSR uses a combination of IP addresses and user accounts to identify a user as a part of a member institution. When a user logs in from an IP addresses associated with a member institution, their MyData account is identified as a member. They can then log in from anywhere in the world for up to six months and still be identified as a member. In the event that you have users who need access to ICPSR and are not on your campus every six months, we recommend using a VPN service to log into your campus network and then access ICPSR.

Some institutions use proxy servers to track usage of subscription resources. Unfortunately, since users can access ICPSR without using your proxy server, a large portion of your usage will not be captured this way. ICPSR provides full comprehensive usage statistics to all Official Representatives via our website.

Because many proxy servers rewrite our website URLs, many functions of our website break when using a proxy server. Because of the wide variety of proxy servers available to different institutions, ICPSR cannot test them all. ICPSR has created the following workarounds that seem to fix the problems with most instances of EZProxy, but we cannot guarantee this will work with every setup. If you still feel the need to use an EZProxy server to access ICPSR, you will need to do the following –

### Whitelist your Proxy Server with ICPSR

For security reasons, ICPSR does not allow users to log in to ICPSR when coming from a non-ICPSR URL. We can whitelist your proxy server(s) so that users will be able to log in to ICPSR while using your proxy server. This does not remove the requirement that users log in to ICPSR to download data. Please note that linked social identities (Google, LinkedIn, Facebook) will not work for login behind a proxy; users will have to use an ICPSR password.

Please contact [help@icpsr.umich.edu](mailto:help@icpsr.umich.edu) to request that we whitelist your proxy server(s). We will need

- a) the IP address or addresses of the proxy server(s)
- b) the URL that you direct your users to in order to access ICPSR
- c) other specific URLs that your users may connect through. For example, if you advertise `proxy.example.edu`, but your users will come from `proxy1.example.edu` and `proxy2.example.edu`, please send all three names.

### Configure your Proxy Server

ICPSR uses embedded websites within our main site. EZProxy sees these embedded URLs and attempts to have the user reauthenticate to your EZProxy server when accessing them,

however it does not present the authentication page to the user. This causes EZProxy to block access to many parts of our websites. In order to correct this, you must configure your EZProxy server to allow access to our subdomains without authentication (while still requiring authentication to [www.icpsr.umich.edu](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu) if desired). The following configuration stanza seems to work for most installations of EZProxy –

```
AnonymousURL -Options +*.icpsr.umich.edu/*
AnonymousURL +*.icpsr.umich.edu/*
AnonymousURL -*www.icpsr.umich.edu/*
Title ICPSR
URL https://www.icpsr.umich.edu
Host www.icpsr.umich.edu
HJ icpsr.umich.edu
DJ icpsr.umich.edu
AnonymousURL -*
```

### HTTPS access to ICPSR

ICPSR requires HTTPS access. Your proxy server must support HTTPS access or ICPSR will not function correctly through your proxy server.